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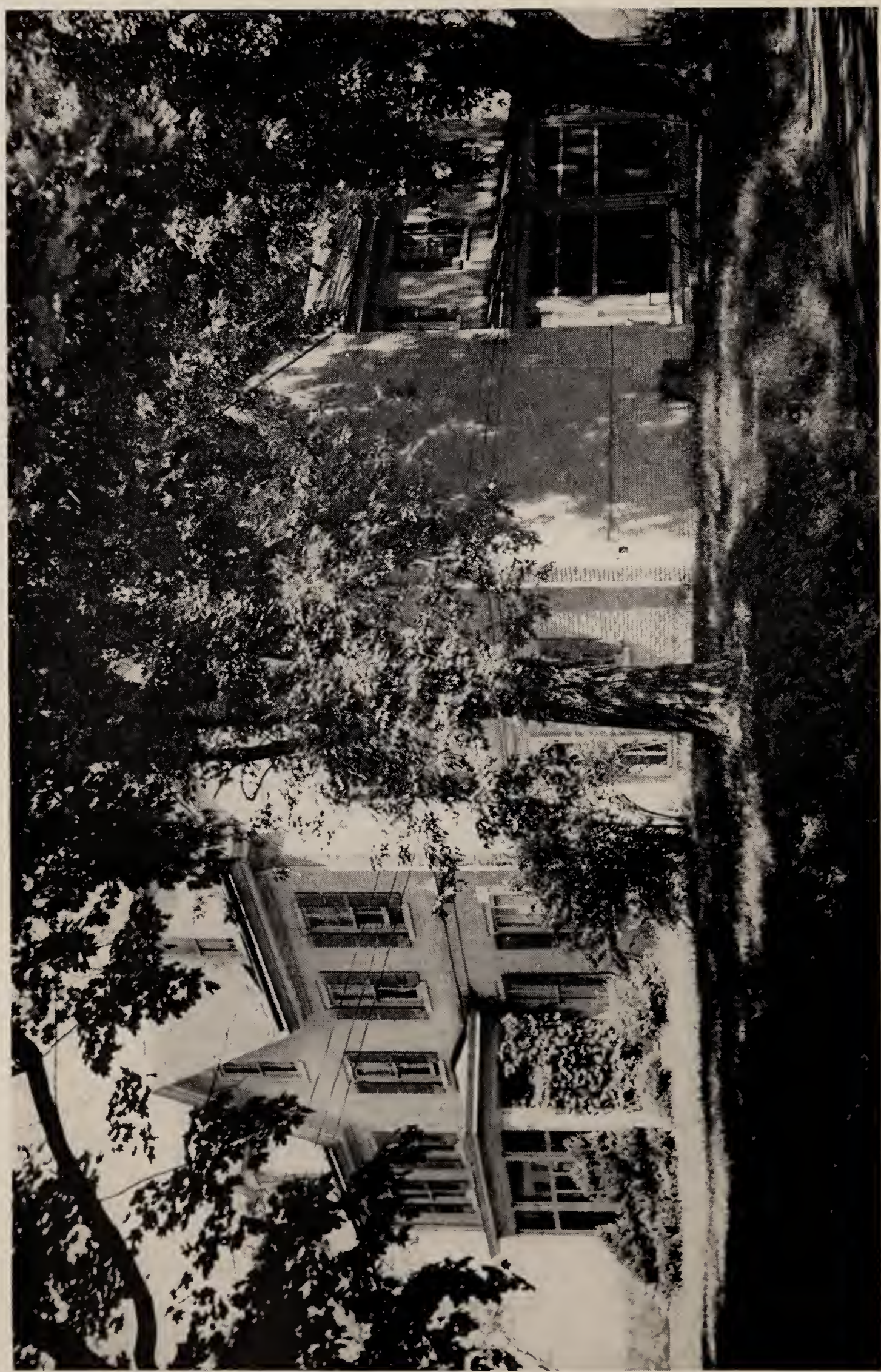
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"SOMERVILLE" NEAR KENTON, DELAWARE, HOME OF NICHOLAS RIDGELY C. 1799-1810

A CALENDAR OF
RIDGELY FAMILY

LETTERS 1742 - 1899

in the

DELAWARE STATE ARCHIVES

Edited and Compiled by

Leon deValinger, Jr., State Archivist

and

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Family Data Supplied By Mrs. Henry Ridgely

Volume II

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the Ridgely Family for the
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Dover, Delaware, 1951

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A.		Autograph
c.		circa
cm.		centimeter
Cy.		copy
D.		Document
Df.		Draft
L.		Letter
N.		Note
n.d.		no date
n.p.		no place
p. or pp.		page or pages
pub.		published
S.		Signed or Signature
U.		Unsigned



Dedicated to Ann Ridgely, daughter of
Henry Moore Ridgely, and wife of
Charles I. duPont.

Because of her devotion to her family
she rescued and preserved a mass of let-
ters which she found in the garret of the
old Ridgely House on the Dover Green.

FOREWORD

It is indeed rare that one is privileged to indulge in a retrospect of an American upper-class family for a period of one hundred and fifty-seven years. Such an opportunity was afforded when the unusual collection of Ridgely family papers was presented to the Public Archives Commission of Delaware in 1942. The initial gift by Mrs. William C. Peyton and her sisters and brother, Mrs. James Andrews, Miss Amy duPont and Mr. Eugene duPont, was acquired through the intercession of Mrs. Henry Ridgely of Dover, Delaware. Later Mrs. Ridgely added to the Collection documents which had accumulated through the years in the old Ridgely House facing historic Dover Green. She also aided considerably during the period of editing by supplying facts of family history and clarifying genealogical relationships.

The initial gift of Ridgely documents amounted to 1677 letters and personal papers. The latter comprised family accounts, legal papers, bits of poetry, copies of literary gems of the period, newspaper clippings, obituary notices, and even locks of hair carefully wrapped in paper. Mrs. Henry Ridgely's subsequent gifts to the Collection have raised the total of letters and personal papers to 4,023 documents.

The papers in the Ridgely Collection cover the period 1742 to as recent as 1899. Thus all branches of the Ridgely family in Delaware, from the founder, Nicholas Ridgely, to all but the last three generations, are represented in these letters. Upon examining the Collection as a whole it becomes evident that the early members of the family carefully preserved all of their correspondence. The later fate of these records is described graphically in a letter from Mrs. Charles I. (Ann Ridgely) duPont to a friend about 1890. Part of her letter states:

“My father was Mr. Dulany's friend, legal adviser, and executor. I am truly sorry the DuLany papers, were not better cared for by my father's widow. If she had only given them to me I would have delighted in preserving them for the DuLany family. I think I mentioned that at my father's death his widow was left a life estate in the house, and all it contained; she outlived him forty years. The office

was rented during that length of years the papers were left in an uncovered box, a prey to the elements and the rats, in an old loft, which after a time leaked. At my step-mother's death I directed them to be gathered up and sent in bags to me, to rescue what I could of them, as my brothers had not the patience to do it. I received eight three-bushel bags of them, a heterogeneous mass of old parchment deeds in a wretched state of decay, legal papers, social letters of the DuLany's, their business papers of the sales of iron and tobacco. Social, business and legal papers of the Ridgelys even to modern times. Social, and business letters of Governor Comegys, (my step-mother's father) &c. I read a very few, but they were all engrossing, and those which were not in a state of decay I saved. There were four bags of DuLany papers. If they could have been preserved, what a history of those early times they would have given. I threw the Ridgely papers in a large empty trunk and have yet to look over them. I doubt whether I will find anything of the genealogy of the family as the oldest papers were in the possession of Chancellor Ridgely, and were destroyed at his death."

To alleviate the shock one receives upon reading of the destruction of these quantities of family papers, rich in social, historical, economic and political data of their time, it should be pointed out that 36 of the Dulany papers, 30 of the Hamilton family records, and a considerable number of the earlier Ridgely papers are still extant. Furthermore, it should be added that Mrs. duPont did much more toward preserving the Ridgely papers than just throwing them "in a large empty trunk", as she states. She protected them from further damage, carefully grouped related correspondence and added many bits of identifying information to the endorsements on the back of many of the papers. In the years to come scholars and students of the history of the Middle Colonies will be increasingly thankful to Mrs. duPont, to her grandchildren, the donors of the collection, and to Mrs. Henry Ridgely who gave the additional papers to supplement those originally presented. It is everlastingly to the credit of their cultural appreciation and foresight that this valuable collection of early American records reposes safely in the vaults of the State Archives of Delaware at Dover.

The significance of this collection should not be considered lightly. These papers are not only the written record of a family for a period of about one hundred and fifty years, neither are they of local interest only to Dover or to the State of Delaware. The wealth of historical, social, economic, political and other folkway data the letters contain makes them a new source of information for interpreting the thoughts and behaviorism of our ancestors. In this collection is reflected the course of phases of the life of the Middle Colonies, later known as the Middle Atlantic States. To understand the history of this area is to understand the development and growth of our Country. During much of the eighteenth century Philadelphia was the political, financial, commercial, industrial, and cultural center of the North American Continent. The correspondence of members of the Ridgely family with their relatives and friends is woven inextricably with the life and progress of that still great city. In the nineteenth century, too, it retained a prominent though less overshadowing position in the affairs of the Ridgely family, as in those of the Nation as a whole. The correspondence of that century, while in all respects more diverse than that of the eighteenth, includes many letters dated from the Delaware towns of Dover, Wilmington and New Castle, along with a smaller number from other communities in the State as well as an important series from Washington and Baltimore. In this century, too, there was more correspondence between members of the family than heretofore. None the less the list of non-family correspondence is extremely long. In addition to Delawareans prominent in national or state government, such as Senators William Hill Wells, Richard Bassett, Nicholas Van Dyke, and Samuel White; Governors Daniel Rodney, Joshua Clayton, Samuel Paynter, Charles Polk and Cornelius P. Comegys; Judges Kensey Johns, Jr. and Sr., and James R. Black; and statesmen John Dickinson, Caesar A. Rodney and John M. Clayton, there are letters from such men as John Randolph of Roanoke, Archibald McBryde, John Baker, Jared Sparks, John Henry Eaton, J. S. Barbour, and General Samuel Smith. Seldom has an opportunity been presented to examine so many diversified facets of American family life and achievement over so long a period.

It was the full realization of the wealth of historical material contained in this collection which prompted my sug-

gestion that it should be published in order that research workers and scholars throughout the Country might be apprised of the contents of the collection. It was indeed gratifying that this suggestion was accepted by Mrs. James Andrews, Miss Amy duPont, Mrs. Henry Ridgely, Mr. Eugene duPont and Mr. Bernard Peyton who subscribed a fund to defray all costs of publication of a calendar of abstracts of the letters to be issued under the imprint of the Public Archives Commission. The size of the Collection is such that the *Calendar* will be published in three volumes.

The calendar was the form of publication selected as being the one which would convey the most information regarding the contents of this Collection. It is recognized that it would be more desirable to publish the letters in full but, for a collection as large as this, the cost would have been prohibitive. The abstracts which have been prepared for each individual letter are intended to serve as a guide to the contents of the letters, but in numerous cases quotations from the letters have been included to preserve the verbiage of the period and to impart the exact meaning of the writer. Usually the calendarized letters of an individual include only the letters to and from that person, but in the preparation of this calendar we were confronted with the problem of devising an orderly system for calendarizing the letters to and from many individuals. As far as we were able to ascertain, such a calendar including letters of so many individuals has not been undertaken previously. It should also be explained that the Dulany and Hamilton papers have not been included in this calendar, and as far as the papers of the Ridgely family are concerned, only the letters have been calendarized. The plan devised for presenting the abstracts of the letters in an orderly manner and with continuity was to devote an individual chapter to the male head of the family in each generation and an additional one for his children. Within these chapters all letters to or from the subject of the chapter are presented in chronological order and include the correspondence of the wife as well as that of their children during minority. The separate chapters designated for the children contain the exchange of correspondence among themselves and with friends or relatives, but not with their parents. The exceptions to these general rules were in the instances of Ann Moore Ridgely, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely,

Henry Moore Ridgely, Ann Ridgely duPont and the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely, each of whom was allotted a separate chapter because of the quantity and importance of their correspondence. In these instances the correspondence of the men began with letters dated nearest their twenty-first birthday while that of Ann Moore Ridgely begins with the first letter following her marriage and includes the correspondence of her husband. We have attempted to identify all incomplete names of persons mentioned in the correspondence. When persons are referred to in the abstracts by their first name only, they invariably refer to members of the Ridgely family; e. g. "Mary says she will write." In the event of a hiatus in a name it is indicated by The size of the documents has been shown in centimeters and the first dimension is the width followed by the length. As some of the letters in this calendar were written before the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in Delaware and the other English colonies in America in 1752, it should be pointed out that in computing dates the adjustment of eleven additional days between the old Augustine calendar and the new calendar should be allowed. In the editing of these letters, however, we have presented the dates as they have appeared in them and have not indicated whether they were new style or old style. In the headings of the letters the state designation Delaware is omitted after Dover and Wilmington, and D. C. is omitted after Washington.

During the course of checking statements and collecting elusive bits of information, we were kindly aided by Mr. Meredith B. Colket, Jr. of The National Archives and the Columbia Historical Society; Mr. James W. Foster, Director of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore; the Reverend W. C. Repetti, S. J., of Georgetown University; and Henry J. Ridgely, Esquire of Dover. Acknowledgments would not be complete without crediting Miss Virginia E. Shaw with the meticulous work of compiling the index to this volume in addition to her other editorial duties. We are also much indebted to Mrs. Herbert E. Abbott of our staff for the care with which she typed the text for publication and we extend thanks to Mr. Charles W. Dickens, Assistant Archivist, for the preparation of the illustrations.

Hall of Records
Dover, Delaware
June, 1951

Leon deValinger, Jr.
State Archivist of Delaware

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

The Ridgely family annals presented in this second of the three-volume series disclose their activities through the correspondence of Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely and that of his brother, Hon. Henry M. Ridgely, and his large family. The letters abstracted in this volume of the *Calendar* present a lively pageant of many aspects of Delaware and national history during the first half of the nineteenth century. The name-sake and grandson of the progenitor of the Delaware branch of the Ridgely family was Nicholas Ridgely (1762-1830) who achieved success as a lawyer and in the service of his State. His public career began with his championship of the Federal Constitution in 1787. It also included service in both houses of the Delaware Legislature; as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1791-1792; as State's Attorney; and, from 1801 until his death, as Chancellor of Delaware. The major portion of the correspondence reveals the activities of Henry M. and Sally (Banning) Ridgely with eleven of the fifteen children born to them, of the second wife Sally Ann Comegys, and a host of kinspeople and friends, along with casual associates as varied as Presidents of the United States and household slaves. While the Country itself was expanding above fourfold in territory and population, the industrial revolution was speeding up the tempo of life at an even faster rate, and political debate was setting the patterns of American public policy for several generations to come.

The State which Nicholas Ridgely served for over forty years is, and has always been, the second smallest in area in the Union, and among the smallest in population. Its greatest length is ninety-six miles; and its width, from nine to thirty-five miles. The population in 1790 was 59,096, which by 1830 had grown to 76,748, and by 1850, to 91,532. Its white residents, though predominantly of British origin, included representatives of virtually every important strain of immigration to have entered the eastern seaboard since settlement began. Most, in the earlier nineteenth century, were native born. They were

a mobile group,¹ receiving accretions from all parts of the United States and contributing residents to every section of it. While most of them lived by farming, a significant fraction were occupied in the growing industrial settlements at the State's northern tip, were water-men of various callings, or devoted themselves to trade or to skilled crafts. Delaware had a Negro population varying between twenty-two and twenty-five per cent of the total from 1790 through 1850. Slavery was legal, but by 1830 had almost disappeared in the two northern counties and was declining sharply in Sussex County. Importation and exportation of slaves was rigidly controlled, requiring, throughout much of the period, a special act of the Legislature for each entry or departure authorized. Major transportation routes between the North and South crossed the State. Communication with the major population centers of the Country was relatively easy by both land and water. Social and cultural aspects of the community, like its population, were diverse enough to include in some measure almost every element affecting the development of the United States.

Since the constitution Nicholas Ridgely helped frame for Delaware remained the basic law of the State throughout his entire public service and most of his brother Henry's, its chief provisions merit brief examination. It resembled the Federal Constitution in general outline, while in many details it was patterned after the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1790. The Legislature for which it provided was a two-chamber General Assembly, with equal representation for each county in each house. The chief executive was a Governor whose limited powers permitted him to see that laws were carried into effect but not to veto bills. He had the power to appoint certain executive officers, some with and some without Senate confirmation. The judicial system was a somewhat elaborate one comprising a Court of Chancery, Orphans' Court, Supreme Court, Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, Court of Common Pleas, Register's Court, Court of Quarter Sessions of the

¹In 1850 there were 104,316 individuals born in Delaware alive in the United States. Of that number 55,591 still lived in the State; the others, nearly 49,000, were residents of every state and territory reported in the census. Of the 15,569 persons who had moved into Delaware, 10,326 came from other parts of the Union, their nativities representing every census unit but Arkansas, Iowa and California; and 5,243 were from foreign countries, principally Ireland, England, Germany, Scotland and France, although every country named in the return had at least one native living in Delaware.

Peace, and a High Court of Errors and Appeals, composed of the combined benches of Chancery and Common Pleas. The Chancellor was sole judge of the equity jurisdiction, and, from 1802, was also sole judge of the Orphans' Court. He sat in each capacity for stated sessions at the three county seats, New Castle, Dover and Georgetown. His was, in effect, the most influential judgeship in the State. With regard to civil rights, the Delaware Constitution compared favorably with those of most other states, granting complete religious freedom to citizens and officeholders. All adult white male taxpayers might vote. All freeholders were eligible to the lower house of the General Assembly, while any white freeman who met minimum age and residence requirements could hold the Governorship or the principal appointive offices. The one high property qualification was a two-hundred-acre freehold or personal property of £1000 required of candidates for the State Senate. A very specific Bill of Rights, the first article of the constitution, provided the only check upon the powers of the Assembly. In addition to the general sections setting up the legislative, executive and judicial framework of the State government, the constitution also directed the Legislature to revise the laws in conformity to its requirements, compile and publish the laws, draft acts protecting and regulating the liberties and franchise of citizens, and to establish schools.

The structure of the courts organized under this instrument of government required Nicholas Ridgely as a private lawyer, State's Attorney, and eventually as the Chancellor, to make long visits to each county seat several times yearly to attend sessions of the major courts. New Castle and Kent Counties, familiar ground to all the Ridgelys of the Chancellor's time, need no special notice with respect to him alone. Sussex County, on the other hand, was rarely mentioned in any but casual context by his contemporary relatives.

Sussex County borders on the lower Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, and extends westward to the center of the peninsula between the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. It is typical Atlantic seaboard country, a low, sandy coastal plain, broken with rolling dunes near the coast, and cut with deep creeks draining into the neighboring bays. While it includes extensive marshes, both along the Delaware Bay and the creeks, and at several inland points, it also contains excellent soil for farming.

Originally, much of the area was heavily forested. In Nicholas Ridgely's day, as at present, Sussex, measuring a little under thirty miles at its longest point in each direction, was the largest of the counties. It also had in 1790 the largest population, as it did again, and for the last time, in 1810. During the forty years of Chancellor Ridgely's public life, its lowest census return was 19,358 in 1800; its highest, 27,115 in 1830. Its residents were primarily of British stock, some direct from England, others from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, with a few from more distant British colonies, and a scattering of non-British stock. By 1800 there were many families that had been settled in the region for a century or more. The residents were for the most part farmers, though their holdings ranged from large tracts of fine farm land and timber, convenient to markets and to social amenities, through medium-sized farms from which an industrious family might earn a comfortable living, down to patches of pinebarren or swamp that could yield only the barest livelihood in a lonely, desolate environment. In Nicholas Ridgely's lifetime a little more than one-fourth of the residents were Negroes, of whom, in 1790, approximately one in seven was free. By 1830 just over two-thirds were free, a proportion that remained almost constant for the next twenty years, a period during which the ratio of Negroes in the total county population fell slightly.

The scattered towns of Sussex County, all very small, were predominantly local trading centers. Lewes and Georgetown did, however, have other functions than supplying neighborhood farmers with equipment or as a shipping point for their produce. The older town, often called by its early name of Lewes Town (sometimes written Lewistown) well into the nineteenth century, had been the seat of local government from the middle seventeenth century until 1792, when the demands of residents in the interior forced the selection of a more central location. Lewes stands at the mouth of Delaware Bay just within the shelter of Cape Henlopen and the modern Delaware Breakwater, on the site of deVries' Zwaanendael colony of 1631. Though the area was resettled within a generation of the destruction of that little Dutch fort, Lewes never became a major port, for its roadstead was a dangerous one and the overland distance to other population centers was considerable. It was, however, important as a local trading point, a fishing center,

and the home port of generations of Delaware Bay pilots. The first great postroad through Delaware connected Lewes with Philadelphia. In the earlier nineteenth century, salt was manufactured near the town. Not long after 1800 it also began to gain recognition as a resort. Descendants of many of the holders of seventeenth century landgrants in the neighborhood still lived there in the early nineteenth century. One such was Governor Daniel Rodney, Chancellor Ridgely's intimate friend.

When the decision to move the Sussex county seat was reached in 1791, a site near the center of the county was selected and a town was laid out for that specific use. The new settlement was named Georgetown, in honor of George Mitchell, one of the Commissioners for laying out the town. It soon became, like Dover, a village centering about a Green on which stood the courthouse, law offices, and some of the finer private homes. Since business incident to the courts and other phases of county government provided its chief activity in Nicholas Ridgely's time, he was necessarily a frequent official visitor who, in his nearly four decades of association with the town, enjoyed many personal friendships there. It was in Georgetown that he died on April 1, 1830, a few hours after adjourning court for the day.

Because of its fragmentary character, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely's correspondence remains more a tantalizing interlude in the *Calendar* than the fascinating chapter it would have provided had his immediate successors in the occupancy of "Eden Hill" included some less meticulous housewife or more perceptive historian. His younger half-brother was in this respect more fortunate in his heirs.

Henry M. Ridgely, son of Dr. Charles and Ann (Moore) Ridgely, maintained family traditions along many lines. He shared his father's eager interest in public affairs, his brother Nicholas' distinction in the law, and the characteristic Ridgely habit of treasuring records of all descriptions. Only through him and his sister Mary (Ridgely) Morris, indeed, was the family line itself continued in Delaware, for no others of Dr. Ridgely's ten children left descendants. He was prominent in the correspondence almost all his life, and a central character from 1800 to 1847. During a considerable part of that time he was the focus of the family in the sense his mother had been,

though at other times he shared the stage with his sisters, his half-brother Nicholas, or his own grown children to a degree Ann (Moore) Ridgely never did before the very end of her life. There is, however, sufficient similarity of background among all the Ridgelys who lived and wrote in the first half of the nineteenth century to make a single setting suitable for all, with occasional digressions to point out circumstances that concerned certain individuals only.

Through these years, births, deaths, marriages, changes in occupation and the simple passage of time greatly altered the family picture. The personal histories and the day-to-day events that wrought these changes belong to the body of this *Calendar*, but a brief account of the affairs of the Ridgelys as a group, decade by decade, seems necessary to place the sometimes disjointed narrative of the letters in correct perspective. Henry M. Ridgely's twenty-first birthday on August 6, 1800, and each tenth anniversary of his majority, provide convenient points of reference.

In the summer of 1800² he had approximately half completed reading law in Nicholas Ridgely's office, and, apparently, still lived at "Eden Hill". The modest inheritance into which he came on August 6 included the homestead on Dover Green purchased by his father before the Revolution, along with some lesser pieces of real estate and personal property, but his most valuable legacies had been the traditions of education, social responsibility and good breeding passed on to him from his long-deceased father and his still-living mother. A schoolboy's interest in public affairs was ripening into active participation in local and national politics. Loving sociability from childhood, he had, in young manhood, a wide circle of friends, many of whom were also friends of his brother George or his sisters Williamina, Mary and Ann. Though he was at this time considering marriage, the young woman who in fact became his bride was in 1800 but a casual acquaintance, a schoolgirl friend of his youngest sister.

The end of his first decade of adult life found his law practice comfortably established, his political career far enough ad-

²Henry M. Ridgely's boyhood at "Eden Hill", education at Newark Academy and Dickinson College, and the beginning of his legal training, first at Lancaster and later with his brother, have been touched upon in volume I as concerns of his mother's household.

vanced to make him the Federalist choice for nomination to Congress in 1810, while for seven years past he had been settled with a family of his own in his house on the Green. The bride he had chosen in 1803 was sixteen-year-old Sally Banning, of whom one of their friends soon remarked "Mrs. Ridgely is even more beautiful than Miss Banning was," and whom Ann (Moore) Ridgely had long before described as "the best-behaved little girl this neighborhood ever had to boast of." Henry M. Ridgely's pride in her throughout their lives is evident. Their early years together, however, were not ones of easy adjustment, for the young husband was imperious and the wife as immature as her years would suggest. The couple's eldest son, Charles George Ridgely, was, in August 1810, an active, friendly, six-year-old of quick intelligence who already showed the effects of uncritical adoration from parents, grandparents, and aunts. Two other little sons, Nicholas and John, had died as babies, and a daughter Williamina, ill at the time of her father's birthday, was to follow them within a month. Other deaths since 1800 had been those of Mr. Ridgely's brother George and sisters Ann and Williamina. Living members of the family circle, in addition to his wife and children, included his mother, his sister Mary and his half-brothers Nicholas and Abraham. With Mary, who had married Dr. William Winder Morris in 1808, he was, for some unexplained reason, no longer on terms of intimate friendship.

The years 1810-1820 were eventful ones in his household. Attendance at the sessions of Congress held him in Washington for many months of each year between 1811 and 1815, deeply involved in problems of both statesmanship and partisan politics, while his wife, in Dover, struggled with loneliness and the unaccustomed responsibility of managing the home and occasionally some of her husband's business activities as well. From the spring of 1815 Mr. Ridgely gave his full attention to his home, his law practice, the several farms he had by then acquired, and local politics. The family, in August 1820, numbered five living children: Charles George, at age sixteen, was a student at St. Mary's College in Baltimore, while Elizabeth, Ann, Henry and Juliet, seven, five, three and one years of age respectively, enlivened the old house in Dover. A son Abraham and the daughter Williamina already mentioned, each about two years old, Mr. Ridgely's mother, and his half-brother Abraham had all died within the decade. At least a partial reconciliation took

place between Henry M. Ridgely and Mary (Ridgely) Morris, while Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely was plainly an intimate.

Before he was fifty-one, on August 6, 1830, Mr. Ridgely had served two years in the United States Senate, the unexpired portion of a predecessor's term, thereby renewing and broadening his acquaintance among men active in national affairs. He was, by that time, almost ready to retire from law practice, but still remained keenly interested both in his farms and in public affairs. His son Charles George, now a man of twenty-six, shared his father's enthusiasm in this latter field and entertained political ambitions of his own. The young man's story was not to be a happy one. Though he had ranked high in his classes at West Point and had been appointed an instructor there upon graduation in 1826, he resigned his commission a few months later at his father's insistence. Thereafter he drifted aimlessly, studying law, fruitlessly seeking appointment as a civil engineer, teaching in academies in and out of Delaware, becoming a lay reader in preparation for Episcopal ordination, all the while alternating between periods of intemperate drinking and bitter remorse, often virtually disowned by his family. Nor was Charles George's "unsteadiness" the only worry Mr. and Mrs. Ridgely faced in the later 1820's. Elizabeth, too, had grown into an emotional girl whose beauty and appearance of unusual maturity had brought her offers of marriage in her middle teens. Her headstrong temperament had given her mother many uneasy hours until boarding school provided a temporary solution to her problems, and the girl's conversion to Methodism at sixteen had finally taught her to accept controls she had resented from her parents. In 1830 Elizabeth was seventeen. The next child, Ann, posed no such disciplinary problems to her parents. Like her sister, she was considered pretty, but hers was a far more placid and obedient temperament. According to family tradition, Henry M. Ridgely directed this daughter's education himself, made her his close companion, and took great pride in her well-disciplined intellect. It is probable that Ann's mothering of the younger children, of which both she and they repeatedly spoke in adult life, had already begun before 1830, when she was fifteen, for Mrs. Ridgely was not well, and four additional children had been born within the previous ten years. Of these, one was stillborn and a second, Mary, died an infant. Juliet had also died before

her second birthday. The younger living children were Nicholas, in 1830 a serious, studious boy approaching his tenth birthday; Eugene, who was eight and already a devoted "farmer" for whom the garden and pets were the most important concerns of life; and three-year-old Williamina whom her sister Ann thought "the sweetest little thing I most ever saw." Through this decade, too, despite occasional suggestions of strain, ties with the Morris family were for the most part close. Its final months saw the death of Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely, who some years earlier had informally adopted his nephew Henry, now thirteen. The boy became his uncle's heir and continued to live, for the most part, with his widowed aunt at "Eden Hill" rather than in his father's home on the Green. For a time during this decade Henry M. Ridgely moved his family out to "Linden Farm", just west of "Eden Hill," but they had returned to town some years before its close.

The period 1830-1840 was another of great change in the Ridgely family. At its close, when Mr. Ridgely was sixty-one, he was a widower, retired from legal practice and from active political life. Within the ten years just past his youngest son, Edward, had been born, his daughter Elizabeth had succumbed to tuberculosis just after her twentieth birthday in 1833, and, in 1837, his wife had died after an illness so brief it had alarmed no one. Mrs. Ridgely's health, however, had been frail for some years previous; and her vision, defective enough from girlhood to cause inconvenience in poor lights, had failed rapidly in the closing years of her life. Meanwhile, Ann had gradually assumed the responsibility of directing the housekeeping, supervising the children, serving as her father's hostess and as the confidant of both parents. She is described, at twenty-five, as a young woman of great charm, exceptional poise, and considerable beauty. Her letters imply that she had several suitors but smiled on none of them, and show clearly that she was a general favorite among both men and women of all ages. Henry Ridgely, during this same span of years, completed his preparatory schooling at St. Mary's College, Baltimore, his medical training at the University of Pennsylvania, and, somewhat reluctantly, set himself up in practice in Kent County, for agriculture rather than medicine was his real love. Nicholas, at nineteen, had nearly decided to lay aside his early legal ambitions in order to become a Methodist preacher. Eugene,

at seventeen, was beginning to assume responsibility for management of his father's farms, with "Linden" his favorite among them. Williamina and Edward, the babies of the family, thirteen and nine years of age in 1840, were both still in school in Dover. Charles George, who observed his thirty-sixth birthday in August 1840, had continued to drift unhappily throughout the earlier part of the decade, now in and now out of favor with his family. Toward the end of the period he had married, "beneath him" in the opinion of at least some of his brothers and sisters, though the next few years show that others of them enjoyed their visits to the home he shortly established in Georgetown, Delaware, and that his father soon considered his wife the one person who could hold him "steady in the face of temptation." Coolness between most of the members of the Ridgely and Morris families again appeared.

Henry M. Ridgely died on his sixty-eighth birthday, three years before the close of the decade 1840-1850, after some sixteen months of invalidism and an even longer period of uncertain health. Aside from his illness and death itself, the only event of great personal significance in these last few years was his second marriage, to Sally Ann Comegys, who though "far past the hey-dey of youth" was none the less younger than her husband's eldest son. She appears to have provided Mr. Ridgely with a comfortable, well-run home and to have dispelled the desperate loneliness he suffered after his first wife's death and especially after Ann's marriage to Charles I. duPont in 1841, but she never won the wholehearted acceptance of his children. For the most part Mr. Ridgely's sons and daughters supply the active element in the family chronicle of these years. Charles George finally found some small measure of financial success and personal prestige in the practice of the law in Sussex County and in winning a seat in the General Assembly, before his death in 1844, a few weeks short of his fortieth birthday. The widow and two cruelly-undisciplined small sons who survived him appear only occasionally in the later family annals and were eventually lost sight of completely. Ann's marriage,³ which proved an exceptionally happy one, has al-

³Ann duPont and Rev. Nicholas Ridgely each left correspondence justifying a separate chapter, both of which begin in the year 1841. The two chapters comprise the major portion of volume III. To complete the sketch of the family as a unit until the death of H. M. Ridgely, certain data about this brother and sister is here included.

ready been mentioned. Her elder child, Amelia Elizabeth du Pont, was Henry M. Ridgely's first granddaughter. Dr. Henry Ridgely had also chosen a wife in his father's lifetime, and had abandoned medicine to make the management of the old "home plantation" of "Eden Hill" his major occupation. His two eldest children, a stillborn infant and an idolized little son Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely, predeceased their grandfather. Nicholas Ridgely, too, married not long after his ordination. The young clergyman's life, like Charles George's, was tragic, though a very different set of problems confronted these two brothers who felt a very understanding sympathy for one another. Deprivation, financial worries, poor health both for himself and family, desperately hard work and emotional conflict incident to his vocation, and, above all, the constant threat of blindness made the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely's road difficult. He outlived his father little more than two years, but his widow and two children, Molly and Harry, continued as figures of some prominence in the family into the second half of the century. Eugene Ridgely grew during these years from youth into early manhood, assuming constantly greater responsibility for the management of his father's properties, though without having sufficient opportunity to display initiative, or so at least he felt. A droll and good-humored young man, his only rebellion was an occasional facetious threat to go West and "turn bandit" if his plea to go on one of the family farms as a tenant were not granted. Not until after his father's death, however, did he achieve his ambition, when the heirs agreed that "Linden" should become his. Between 1840 and 1850 Williamina, always "Willy" to her family just as her aunt had been, matured from a tom-boy schoolgirl whose "infamous Tippecanoe songs" and carefree lack of either decorum or studiousness worried her elders, into a vivacious young lady "fit to be called father's daughter." Just before Mr. Ridgely's death she became the bride of Alexander Johnson, a prosperous farmer and business man from Mispillion Hundred in lower Kent County. Edward Ridgely, between 1840 and 1850, completed his pre-professional education, first in Dover and later at St. Mary's College, Wilmington, where he was enrolled a few weeks after his father's death.

It is easy, in following Mr. Ridgely's personal history, to forget how greatly the United States changed during his adult

life. When he came of age in 1800 its western boundary was the Mississippi, and its southernmost state was Georgia, leaving Florida, the Gulf coast and the entire western two-thirds of our present Country in European ownership. Sixteen states comprised the Union. The population numbered a little over five million, of whom not quite one in six was a slave and about one in fifty a free Negro. Most Americans still lived east of the Appalachians, although settlements were rapidly pressing westward and such towns as Pittsburgh were already of substantial size. The mails, however, had not yet been extended to the distant Army outpost of Detroit. A very large percentage of the people, some estimates place the number as high as nine of every ten, made a living in whole or in part from farming. The great bulk of equipment and household goods required for each farm was fashioned on the premises by the owner's family and such free workmen or slaves as he might have in his service. Merchants, as they had done from the beginning of colonization, handled a substantial trade within the Country and between it and European or, more recently, with Asiatic ports. Luxuries, semi-luxuries and those relatively few articles which required specialized manufacturing skills were the goods American consumers purchased in 1800. Water power was coming into extensive use and some applications were being made of steam, but the craftsman's shop, more frequently than not a small one, was still the typical manufacturing unit. Communication remained limited by the speed of horses and sailing vessels, but in this field new possibilities were already visible. Along the Delaware River, Thomas Fitch had demonstrated the physical if not the financial feasibility of passenger steamship lines on great rivers, and Oliver Evans of Delaware was soon to exhibit his *Oruktor Amphibolous*, a dredge self-propelled on both land and water, to mention but two of the earliest American experiments in power transportation. In almost every branch of activity, indeed, the seeds of a new physical and social environment planted by the inquiring minds of the middle eighteenth century were beginning to germinate. Throughout his mature years, Henry M. Ridgely was to watch their growth.

Had he lived but a few months longer than he actually did he would have seen his Country reach its present continental boundaries, save for minor adjustments. Less than three years

after his death the Census of 1850 recorded a population above twenty-three million in thirty-one⁴ states, with approximately one person in seven a slave and one in fifty-three a free Negro. The well-settled area had reached and was pushing beyond the Mississippi, on the western side of which there were already five⁵ states and several organized territories. The great bulk of the population comprised people under forty. Somewhat surprisingly, some thirteen million of the nineteen and a half million white residents still lived in the state of their birth; something over four million lived in a different state, and two and a quarter million had been born abroad.

Equal changes had taken place in the circumstances of everyday life. Mechanized industry had become the pace-setting factor in the national economy, its products gradually eliminating handicraft industry and household manufactures, its expenses encouraging corporate organization, its dependence upon convenient sources of power and transportation facilities stimulating the growth of cities and its cumulative effect steadily decreasing the relative importance of agriculture in the Nation's total business. Of some five and a quarter million employed adults reported by the census, only about two and one-half million called themselves farmers.

The new developments were in all probability most strikingly visible in transportation and communication. When Henry Ridgely was a boy at school in Newark he might expect messages from his home in Dover, less than fifty miles away, only at irregular intervals of weeks, sometimes of a month or more; the trip was a tiring all-day journey. Before the close of his life the telegraph had been introduced, steamships were commonplace and railroads were of rapidly-increasing importance. A few excerpts taken from the correspondence dramatize the changes that occurred in this one lifetime of normal length. Writing of a trip to Washington in November 1808, Mr. Ridgely told his wife:

“On Wednesday last about 12 o'clock I left Wilmington and arrived at this place [Washington, D. C.] at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, in the mail stage, having travelled all night. Altho the road from Wil-

⁴There were twenty-nine states on August 6, 1847 when Mr. Ridgely died.

⁵California, admitted before the close of 1850, is not included in this number.

mington to this place is very rough and I travelled it for twenty-six hours constantly, except only when the mail was changing yet I think I never felt less fatigued with a ride. . . . When I arrived here on Thursday afternoon, and shaved and dressed myself I felt quite fresh and less fatigued than I have often felt in riding from Wilmington to Dover."

From a letter just two years later one can realize what he meant by the last sentence.

"I left Dr. McKee's between three and four o'clock in the morning—I got to Brinton's [Tavern, the stage-stop in Wilmington] just after the town-clock struck four and there I staid beating and thundering at the doors and ringing the bell till just before five before I could get them to open the house—and indeed I should not have got in as soon as I did if it had not been for Melton, the stage driver, who happened to pass down the pavement in going to the stable for his horses. . . . At half past five the stage started and we came on pretty well till we reached Cantwell's Bridge—there we were at a dead halt, for there [were] . . . neither stage nor horses to bring us on. . . . After knocking about for a while they at length procured an old crazy carriage and a little broken-down poney for Dr. Sykes and myself, while . . . the other passenger was packed with the mail in[to] . . . [a] chaise accompanied with the stage driver. In this stile we reached Smyrna, where we got our dinners and thence came on in the stage which was left there the day before to be repaired."

He wriily hoped his wife might be more entertained by this account of his travels than he had been at the time.

Not all the journeys undertaken, however, were fraught with inconvenience and downright danger. Moreover, a surprisingly large number of Americans travelled in those days, convenient or not. An occasional person, even in the very early 1800's, took the long trip across the Alleghany Mountains to Kentucky or Ohio and return simply to pay a visit. But long or short, smooth or rough, journeys were time consuming. Consequently one understands the exclamation of

Henry M. Ridgely's son, Rev. Nicholas Ridgely, in describing the conclusion of a pleasant week-end in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in December 1844:

"I came with all the speed of the cars to Wilmington that evening . . ., a distance of about 200 miles, and the whole accomplished in one day. Truly we almost fly in these days of steam!"

It is important to recall that these alterations in the physical basis of life during the earlier nineteenth century did not affect all parts of the United States equally or in the same manner. They tended, indeed, to accentuate isolation where it still existed, and to produce areas whose interests were almost wholly either agricultural or industrial. This was true within each state in the North and Northwest, but to an even greater degree between the North and South. In consequence the very factors that permitted the Country's enormous growth in size and population fed a sectionalism, partly new and partly a legacy of colonial days, which periodically threatened its existence.

Within the five decades of Mr. Ridgely's manhood, two wars were fought: one with England in 1812-1815, and the other with Mexico in 1846-1848. Presidents Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler and Polk held office. A series of bitter internal issues shaped up in almost every administration, each colored by the circumstances and personalities that produced the immediate clash of opinion, but usually involving contests between farming and business, pioneer and long-settled regions, free and slave economies, or some combination of these interests. Foreign relations were important, insofar as they concerned trade, actual or potential European domination of other American countries, and our own continental expansion. Interpretation of the Constitution, tariff policies, the administration of public lands, and the Nation's financial structure proved perennial bones of contention. "Internal improvements" by which men of this era usually meant roads, navigation facilities with especial reference to canals, and, after about 1830, railroads likewise provided major political issues. Their planning involved bitter debate over control of natural resources, the roles of Federal and state governments, the respective rights and responsibilities of organizers, the public, and government, as

well as the merits of the various forms of transportation and of specific projects. During this half-century the rights of voting and office-holding were extended to include a considerable portion of the white freemen of the population. Free public education, the dream of theorists in the preceding generation, had by 1850 become an established institution justified by successful experiment in many sections of the North and Northwest, while private opportunities for those of modest means to obtain secondary and collegiate training multiplied in all sections. The social conscience evident among some leaders in the later eighteenth century found popular expression in the nineteenth in movements for prison reform, education for the seriously handicapped, and the welfare of working men, to name but a few of many humanitarian programs.

Early in the century, gradual abolition of slavery under some formula that would both prepare Negroes for the responsibilities of freedom and indemnify owners for loss of their services seemed a reasonable expectation. Many representative Southerners were convinced that ownership of other human beings was both morally wrong and economically dangerous, while a corresponding segment of Northern opinion appreciated the complex practical problems large-scale emancipation posed. Since the political, economic and social developments that made such a solution increasingly improbable and finally ended in war are only indirectly part of the background of the Ridgely correspondence, they require no detailed discussion here. Their existence, however, produced emotional overtones easily detectable in the series. It may be significant in this connection that Henry M. Ridgely, in 1814, declined to take any steps toward recovering a runaway slave, while in 1828 he remarked that he would be interested in purchasing a certain Negro if the seller could give "a good title to her as a slave for life." This may reflect only his response to differing circumstances of whose details we know little, but it seems more likely that a distinct change in the social climate in regard to slavery was taking place within the groups with which he was most closely associated. At all events, one finds no evidence of any Ridgely having purchased a slave for any but humanitarian reasons for fifty years previous, while many had been freed.

Henry M. Ridgely's wide acquaintance with leaders in business and government, his correspondence and his extensive reading kept him aware, even at times when he himself was not active in public affairs, of the influences that were shaping the United States. His letters throw light on many of them. But keen as his interest in the national scene might be, Kent County and Dover were rarely crowded out of their dominant place in his affection. The Kent County of his adult years was in most respects a static community of about 20,000, responding but slowly to the radical changes occurring in American life, and in many ways scarcely different from what it had been when his mother headed the family.

Its population rose slowly between 1800 and 1820 but lost virtually all its increase before 1840, when the census showed only 315 more residents than in 1800. In the next decade this downward trend was checked and then reversed. By 1850 the County claimed a population of 22,816, the highest count to that date and a gain of nearly 3,000 for the ten years. Its rate of growth⁶ for the decade and the half-century was low, none the less, when compared with either the State or the Nation. White individuals and families continued to join the stream of emigration that had flowed since colonial days, while the virtual extinction⁷ of slavery also gave freedom to choose their residence to most Negroes, many of whom moved to nearby cities. The 1790 ratio between the two races, approximately seventy per cent white to thirty per cent colored, varied but little during these years.

Central and lower Delaware's growth, sometimes actual decline, through this period points to faulty agricultural practices, since farming and lumbering were the foundations of its economy. Many contemporary accounts, most specific of them the files of *The Delaware Register and Farmers' Magazine*⁸ published in Dover in 1838 and 1839, show that this was in fact the case. For generations much of the land had been over-cultivated and its timber wastefully stripped; now such areas

⁶From 1800 to 1850 Delaware's total population increased forty-five per cent, Kent County's fourteen and three-tenths per cent; from 1840 to 1850 the respective ratios were eighteen per cent and twelve per cent.

⁷The Census of 1850 lists 347 slaves in Kent County in a Negro population of 6732; corresponding figures for 1800 are 1485 slaves in a Negro population of 5731.

⁸*The Delaware Register and Farmers' Magazine*, William Huffington, editor, volumes I-II, 480 + 490 pp., Dover, Delaware, 1838-1839; *passim*.



MAP OF DELAWARE, 1814, FROM M. CAREY'S GENERAL ATLAS

were worn to the point where they no longer repaid the labor of tillage and were being abandoned in progressively larger tracts. Observers charged that share-cropping, by tempting both owner and tenant to destroy permanent fertility for a few years' quick profit from soil-depleting crops, was hastening the impending ruin of Kent and Sussex Counties. Men with money to invest were, they said, purchasing large acreages in a declining condition and mining out the remnants of its productivity, often with disastrous results to themselves and always so to the community. Both owners and renters were selling their goods and property for whatever they would bring and joining the migration to the West, there to repeat the destructive cycle. The editor, William Huffington, argued that this suicidal trend could still be stopped by scientific agriculture, that it had, in fact, already been checked in upper New Castle County, and that the cost of a move to the West, if invested in fertilizers and careful management, would rebuild a man's Delaware farm to the enrichment of himself, his community and his Country. This modern-sounding conservationist had been an unsuccessful suitor of Henry M. Ridgely's lovely daughter Elizabeth. The Ridgely correspondence offers a clear case history of the farming problem in the neighborhood at this period. As a young man Mr. Ridgely had rotated his crops, fertilized his fields and cut judiciously from his woodland. In his old age, however, even he allowed his properties to deteriorate to a degree that occasioned worried discussion among his heirs in the months following his death. The property "Barren Plains" which his daughter Ann had inherited through her mother is said to have produced an annual income averaging \$400.00 about 1815, and less than \$30.00 thirty year later.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, as in the later eighteenth, grains, potatoes, hogs and to a somewhat lesser extent cattle provided the farmers' major income. For their own tables many of them raised a variety of vegetables. Spinach, "cabbage sprouts" and "white large-headed lettuce" are among the produce noted in Henry M. Ridgely's garden that were not to be found in his mother's. Because of the distance from urban markets truck farming was not yet commercially important in the County. Fruit was raised in quantity for family use on most farms, for strawberries, cherries, apricots, peaches, plums, pears, apples, grapes, and melons are promi-

nently mentioned. Mr. Ridgely, who liked to experiment with new plants and improved varieties of familiar ones, raised figs and talked of attempting to grow olives. Though there is no evidence that he ever actually planted any of the latter, his remark calls attention to the very wide variety of food-producing and ornamental plants that thrived in Kent County.

In the final years of Mr. Ridgely's life two important new elements affected agricultural prospects in the vicinity. One was the expectation, realized in and after 1853, of a railroad connecting the peninsula with large Northern cities and, by ferry connection, with Norfolk, Virginia and the South. The other new factor was the beginning of extensive peach production. In 1843 Eugene Ridgely, commenting on disastrous losses two neighbors seemed about to sustain in that business, wrote that one of them had "a railway from his orchard down to his landing in order to carry his peaches without bruising; he has about 50 men (paying 50 c[en]ts a day) gathering for him and about a dozen watching every night." The fruit was customarily shipped by steamboat to the Philadelphia market. With the opening of through rail connections a little later peach growing was to become one of the chief industries of Kent County, while other perishable produce came to furnish valuable sidelines for enterprising farmers. When Henry M. Ridgely died, however, farm leaders were still fighting to introduce elementary conservation measures in the face of traditional resistance to change, ignorance, distrust of "book farming" and cumulative poverty that forced even men who knew better to wring the last shock of corn from dying fields to stave off bankruptcy. The County's future as an important agricultural region was in 1847 still very much in the balance.

Transportation facilities have already been touched upon briefly, but some details require more specific mention. During much of the period the majority of the passengers went overland by stage or private carriage between New Castle and towns in lower Delaware, and of necessity, all traveled in that way between Kent County and the adjoining counties of Maryland. Freight was regularly shipped by water between the landings on the creeks and Wilmington, New Castle and Philadelphia. Mr. Ridgely in several instances sent flour and similar bulky gifts from Dover to Wilmington *via* Philadelphia. For the middle reaches of the County the landing on Little Creek

appears to have been the favorite after steamboats became common on the Delaware Bay, though this entailed an overland haul of several miles for shippers from Dover. By 1825 a steamship line was running from Philadelphia to Dona Landing, between Smyrna and Dover. The line flourished for several years as a link in a water-stage route between Philadelphia and Norfolk, but eventually failed, to be succeeded after an interval by a second passenger line which supplied the usual public means of travel in the late 1840's⁹. Ridgely letters at the close of that decade refer repeatedly to trips by boat to New Castle or Philadelphia. The *Kent*, *Zephyr*, *Portsmouth* and *Napoleon* were all plying the river before 1850. Completion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in 1829 and of the New Castle-Frenchtown Railroad in 1832, though outside the County, had an indirect influence there, chief of which was to make Baltimore as conveniently accessible as Philadelphia. Railway construction within Kent County itself belongs to a later period.

There is no evidence of any significant industrialization in Kent County in the first half of the nineteenth century, if one excludes occasional instances of the use of steam engines in lumbering. Artisans' shops were still to be found in the towns and hamlets, and trade was brisk between the County's landings and the neighboring cities. But in both these fields traditional activities were being continued, with the added speed and certainty of communication providing the one new element in business conditions.

Politically Kent County remained loyal to the Federalists as long as that party continued. When it disintegrated in and shortly after 1820 its adherents, here as elsewhere, divided their support among the national leaders, nominally all Democrats, as individual judgment dictated. Many of them supported John Quincy Adams or William H. Crawford in 1824 and Adams in 1828. Henry M. Ridgely's choice in the former year is not evident, but in 1828 he was an enthusiastic Jackson man. As party organizations tightened in and after President Andrew Jackson's Administration, Delaware voted for a succession of Whigs for the Presidency. The preference of Kent County is not always easy to determine for these years, but discussions relating

⁹Scharf, J. Thomas, *History of Delaware*, vol. II, page 1116.

to scattered elections indicate a close division between Whigs and Democrats in the period subsequent to 1828.

The dominant religious note of the generation was a fervent evangelism, of which the Methodist Church, in this locality, was the chief vehicle. Revival meetings, sometimes reaching the point of mass hysteria, were a characteristic phenomenon. Great emphasis was placed, in most branches of Protestantism, upon the rite of baptism, formal union with the Church, and the observance of ascetic regulations with regard to dancing, Sabbath observance and the like. The Ridgely letters show instances of the exaggerated denominationalism of the time, but they also indicate that considerable interdenominational cooperation existed, and that there was often genuine religious feeling behind the emotional, ritualistic shell. The Census of 1850 listed forty-eight religious societies in Kent County, from a State total of one hundred eighty. Of these forty-eight congregations, the Methodists supplied thirty-five, the Baptists, Friends and Presbyterians three each, and the Episcopalians, two.

In Kent County the eighteenth century pattern of education continued into the nineteenth, without significant innovations before 1829. Families who could afford the cost assembled subscription schools in their neighborhoods and supplied such teachers as they could contract with, generally on a quarterly basis, to instruct their younger children. Boys who were to receive classical training were then usually sent to an academy or boarding school, often in one of the larger cities and sometimes at a considerable distance. Their sisters, too, not infrequently received a broad general education, often in a town or city boarding school. A "finishing" in Washington, Philadelphia or Baltimore was "correct" for the adolescent daughters of well-to-do families, but Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely considered this quite superfluous for his fourteen-year-old niece Ann, who he thought already behaved faultlessly in public. A young man still learned his profession, business or trade chiefly through apprenticeship or independent study, though if he were ambitious a student might supplement his reading of law or medicine with courses at the by-this-time well-established medical schools or the more-recently-organized law schools. Though none of either were situated in Kent County, various ones of its young professional men were so trained else-

where. One such was the statesman John M. Clayton; another was Henry M. Ridgely's second son, Henry Ridgely.

One cannot generalize safely about the quality of education available to boys and girls of the neighborhood between 1800 and 1830. The teachers of the subscription schools may have been more competent than those of preceeding generations. It is true, for example, that Charles George Ridgely composed and penned a better letter at ten than his father and Uncle George had done at twelve or fourteen. On the other hand, his mother complained, during the War of 1812, that the children of Dover were being cheated of their proper schooling because the only available master was an habitual drunkard who neglected his classes for days and weeks at a time. In addition to the subscription schools, there were several private academies in the various towns at one time or another between 1800 and 1850. Some had enviable reputations for secondary instruction. Dover and Smyrna, among others, each had periods of prosperity and unquestioned merit.

Children of families unable to make use of such facilities did not always go completely untaught. Individuals or groups undoubtedly assisted promising young people who came to their attention. Between 1817 and 1829 the State made annual appropriations from the school fund for the free primary instruction of indigents, though relatively few attended under the terms imposed. Apprenticeship bonds frequently stipulated that the apprentice be taught to read and write.

These traditional ways of providing education none the less failed with increasing frequency to meet community needs for either rich or poor. In consequence the public school movement, which began in Delaware about 1790, persisted through set-backs and discouragement to its final success in 1829¹⁰. In that year, chiefly under the prodding of Willard Hall, but with strong support from Charles Marim and others, the General Assembly passed a Free School Act. Under its terms the State was divided into districts of convenient size, each of which was offered a generous subsidy if it organized a school "free

¹⁰It seems justifiable to point out in this connection that Delaware, between 1790 and 1830, was among the more progressive States in school legislation, although the contrary has been stated so often it is taken for granted even by its own schoolmen.

to all white children of the district,"¹¹ assumed a specified share of the cost, and taught reading, writing, arithmetic and grammar, a minimum program which local authorities might expand as they wished. Local autonomy was complete. Districts voted annually on the continuation of the schools and, if continued, whether to pay the local assessment by tax or voluntary contribution. There was little effective machinery for coordinating the efforts of the separate districts. These weaknesses led to the inefficiency that might well be expected, but they did not prevent very significant educational progress during the last twenty years of Henry M. Ridgely's life.

Unfortunately, early free school history in Kent County is difficult to determine. The best summary at present known is that made in 1844, by Charles Marim, then County Superintendent, one of the original sponsors of the School Law and an occasional figure in the Ridgely correspondence. He reported to the General Assembly that in 1842 he had visited over half the districts in the County, had found but one in which no school at all was being held, saw several that were outstanding and many that were good, but he also inspected others that ranged from poor to worthless. He believed public school sentiment in the County had gained steadily in the sixteen years of the law's operation and that, considered as a whole, actual practice was encouraging. Among the affluent he found sentiment divided, but in many instances they gave the public system full support and patronage. Where this was true, public schools prospered; when the well-to-do were indifferent or hostile, development was slow and difficult. The Census of 1850 recorded forty-eight public schools in the County, employing fifty-two teachers and enrolling 2403 pupils. The system's annual income was \$11,395.00, less than \$300.00 of which came from sources other than public funds.

Another aspect of Kent County education in the later part of Mr. Ridgely's life was the Sunday School movement. When such schools were first mentioned in the correspondence of his son Nicholas they were offering a combination of secular instruction, religious training, and library service, all of which their enthusiastic advocates, about 1840, felt were desperately needed in isolated sections like Jones' Neck, a country district

¹¹Only Massachusetts had such a provision in force in 1829. Elsewhere the "rate bill" persisted for many years, in most localities for a full generation longer.



DOVER STAGE—*Winter Establishment.*

THIS Line will start [on Monday the 2d. of January] from R. Keddy's, Sign of the Ship, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 7 o'clock in the morning, and from A. Harris's, Dover, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and for George Town on the same mornings.

The proprietors having three good four Horse teams between Wilmington and Dover, and two between Dover and George Town: fare from Wilmington to George Town 5 dollars 25 cents, other Towns or distances at the same rate.

N. B. This line is immediately connected with the Virginia mail stage line, (Wm. D. Waples being a Proprietor in both lines) which leaves Millsboro every Wednesday morning, passes through Berlin, Poplar Town, Snow Hill, Horn Town. Accomac Court House, Bell Haven, Frank Town, and Northampton Court House, Virginia. Hungers Ferry being in good order.

P. S. The above Line still continues to run in connection with the New Castle Steam Boat line; and being independent, will not be confined to Mail hours, neither will it be detained at the different Post Offices, nor bound to go the Mail routs except for the convenience of Passengers, consequently it is expected that this line will perform its route in much shorter time than if troubled by the Mail.

ALEXANDER PORTER, *Wilmington*; JNO. SUTTON & SON, *St. Georges*; A. HARRIS, *Dover*; R. D. STOUT, *George Town*; (Agent,) & Wm. D. WAPLES, *Millsboro. Proprietors.*

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE DOVER STAGE MENTIONED FREQUENTLY IN THE RIDGELY CORRESPONDENCE. FROM THE AMERICAN WATCHMAN OF NOVEMBER 1819

between Dover and the Bay. Throughout Delaware, indeed, and for a great many years, Sunday Schools supplemented the secular public school system to such an extent that they received a State subsidy for each student enrolled.

Education for colored children, too, had at least started, for in 1826 a letter referred to a "Negro schoolhouse" in the general neighborhood of Dover. Though occasional Negro children had been taught to read and write a generation or more earlier, this allusion is none the less surprising at that date and place.

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In short, educational opportunities in Kent County about 1850 were still unequally distributed and not ideal for any class of its citizens. Nevertheless public schools, Sunday Schools, private charitable efforts and improving private schools appear to have increased literacy and raised the quality of instruction frequently available to well beyond the level of 1800.

Much of the foregoing discussion of the social and economic situation of Kent County is applicable to Dover. The town, in addition, had characteristics distinctly its own. Since it provides the background for so large a proportion of the correspondence of Henry M. Ridgely and his family it merits somewhat extended description. A contributor to *The Delaware Register*¹² in 1838 wrote of it:

"The town of Dover is situated on a plain, at the head of the tide on St. Jones' creek, in Kent county; six miles west of the Delaware bay, thirty-six north from Georgetown in Sussex county, and forty-five south of the city of Wilmington . . . The town is principally built of brick, around a public square, and on a street¹³ running nearly north and south through it, and contains between five and six hundred inhabitants. The public buildings are a handsome and commodious court house, public offices and jail, and three churches¹⁴; . . . Chambers are provided in the court house, for the accommodation of the legislature of the state

¹²Huffington, *op. cit.* vol. I, p. 193.

¹³Now State Street, south of Loockerman.

¹⁴Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian.

“A daily mail runs between Philadelphia and Dover, changing at the intermediate towns; and two four-horse stages are constantly plying for the accommodation of travellers.

“The market of Dover is plentifully supplied with poultry, pork, bread stuffs, vegetables, fruits, fish, oysters and terrapins of good quality, at fair prices, but is deficient in the article of good beef; for which we are principally indebted to our neighbors of New Castle county. Shad are caught in the creek near the town, and the terrapins taken on the bay shore within a few miles of the place, are considered superior to any to be procured elsewhere.

“The population of Dover has been nearly stationary for a century past; although its location presents a pleasant, healthy and convenient place of residence. This is owing to the fact that the inhabitants depend for their support chiefly on the emoluments of office; fees for professional services, and perquisites derived from attendance on the courts and legislature; which only furnish employment to a limited number of persons. But within a few years past, Dover has assumed a much more commercial attitude than formerly The merchants here labor under the disadvantage of having to haul all their produce four miles, to the Dover landing, situate on Little creek, for shipment; St. Jones' creek being so long, crooked, narrow and shallow, as not to afford the necessary facilities for that purpose. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, there was purchased here in the year 1837, and sent to the markets of Philadelphia, New York and Boston, more than one hundred and thirty thousand bushels of . . . Indian corn, wheat, rye, oats and flax seed; besides the value of about thirty thousand dollars in staves, bark and other lumber; and sundry articles of trade of which no regular account can be obtained. . . .”

Another description, not contemporary, but referring to the same approximate period of the town's history, supplements the *Delaware Register* account at many points. In 1896 Judge George P. Fisher prepared for his granddaughter, Mrs. Henry

Ridgely, a record of Dover¹⁵ as he remembered it when he lived there as a small boy from 1824 through 1827. Taking the buildings in order on the east side of the street from the southern boundary of the village near the old Academy Building, along what is now State Street, around The Green, and as far north as the old Hillyard mansion on Kings' Highway, in 1951 owned by Dr. Frank S. Hall, and back on the west side, he noted some sixty-odd dwellings, the public buildings mentioned in the article previously quoted, and three taverns abutting on The Green. Among the business establishments he recalled were a bank, five stores which dealt in general merchandise, a lumber yard, stables belonging to one of the taverns, a barber shop, two printing offices, a little chair and paint shop, a store where seafood, bread, cakes and beer might be bought, and three candy shops. Most shopkeepers and craftsmen lived in the buildings where they worked. Shops, public buildings, fine homes and ramshackle cabins stood side by side, though the greater part of the town's business, as Judge Fisher recalled it, was transacted south of The Green. He added that, although the approximately seventy buildings he described comprised most of those in Dover, there were also "quite a number . . . scattered down North Street and eight or ten in Bridgetown". Between the present King Street and the Pennsylvania Railroad station, extending north from modern Loockerman Street, was a large field where the little boys of the neighborhood sometimes went hunting. The Judge, as an elderly man, was sure the town's population in 1825 must have been materially less than the five hundred its residents accepted at the time as the correct number.

Except for minor detail, these descriptions of Dover in 1824 and 1838 do not differ either from each other or from those of about 1790. There is, indeed, little evidence from any source to suggest that the town changed to any marked degree in either size or appearance between 1800 and 1850. Old residents, sometimes by families, sometimes one by one, continued to move to the cities or to the West, while a trickle of newcomers barely sufficed to keep the total number roughly constant. Henry M. Ridgely himself, in 1805, had thought seriously enough of joining the exodus to prompt his mother-in-law to hope he would not move "to such a distance", and in the 1820's he

¹⁵Published in *Papers of the Historical Society of Delaware*, volume V, Paper LV, 27 pp., Wilmington, Delaware, [c. 1905].

had lived for a time on his "Linden" farm near Camden, Delaware. During the War of 1812 Charles George Ridgely, then a ten-year-old given to exaggeration, wrote his father that it seemed as if "all the men in town" planned to leave Dover.

In this period as in earlier ones ill health plagued the community. Malaria remained an accepted inconvenience. A fall and winter that passed without an epidemic of some infectious fever or respiratory disease was noteworthy. It was not uncommon for a Dover correspondent to remark that scarcely a person in town had escaped illness. Mortality often ran high, sometimes from the virulence of the infection, sometimes from simple lack of informed care. It was in such a depressing time of all but universal sickness, with funerals in and around the town an almost daily occurrence, that Sally (Banning) Ridgely wrote rebelliously to her husband in Washington:

"You must not scold at my finding fault with your favorite place; I do endeavor to feel an attachment to it for your sake, but indeed, indeed it is a miserable place!"

Among the identifiable epidemics of which the Ridgely letters spoke were influenza, pneumonia, typhoid and scarlet fevers, and dysentery. Rheumatic infections and tuberculosis were common. Deaths of children, especially babies, were tragedies to be met with what resignation one could summon, but certainly not with surprise. The experience of this generation of Ridgelys in this respect was not extraordinary. Of fourteen¹⁶ children born alive to Henry and Sally Ridgely, six died before their second birthday. Among the eight who lived through adolescence, four succumbed, between the ages of twenty and forty, to maladies known or inferred to have been tuberculosis, rheumatic heart damage, and complications of childbirth.

Such conditions were by no means peculiar to Dover, but its damp, changeable climate and marshy environs did intensify health problems of a sort found everywhere. A few medical notes from the Ridgely letters suggest some of the efforts residents made in the early nineteenth century to meet these difficulties. At the very start of the century vaccination for

¹⁶One additional child was stillborn.

smallpox began to replace the dangerous practice of inoculation, although the latter persisted well into the second half of the century. The following note, dated November 25, 1804, from Dr. John Vaughn, a prominent Wilmington physician, is preserved among Henry M. Ridgely's papers:

"I shall be glad to be informed whether the vaccination has succeeded with your little son [Charles George Ridgely, aged three months]. . . . If so, it will be necessary to attend to the inoculation to obviate troublesome inflammation of the arm. I usually keep cloth (linnen) constantly wetted with lead water to the arm for the first few days of Inflammation, and afterwards the application of Mercurial ointment effectually prevents induration and unnecessary supuration."

In 1813 bleeding, with "low diet" and "medicine to induce sweating", was considered the proper treatment for a woman threatened with pneumonia in the late months of pregnancy. When she began to recover, wine and meat in moderate quantities were prescribed. During the period under discussion, bleeding lost some of its popularity as a complete panacea, but in Henry M. Ridgely's final illness physicians used that means in attempting to control recurrent cerebral hemorrhages, and instances of its use in preparing for childbirth and treating other conditions occasionally occur in mid-century. Blistering, too, had not completely disappeared. While he was a Congressman, Mr. Ridgely asked his wife to have their two small children wear camphor-filled bags tied about their necks with black silk ribbon, to be removed only when bathing, as a protection against sore throat and infectious diseases. He admitted shamefacedly that the remedy was probably only a superstition, but at worst was harmless. His willingness at this time, about 1813, to neglect no possible road to health, however improbable, was undoubtedly spurred by recollection of the deaths of four of the six children who had then been born to him and his wife. He was possibly on sounder ground when he recommended cold baths, taken with care to prevent chill, as a health measure. His wife was thoroughly modern in her thinking when she commented that the Morris family did not "breath fresh air enough to keep healthy" during an unusually cold winter when they huddled in a few rooms that could be well heated.

Fresh air and exercise were favorite prescriptions in the Ridgely household, but it is impossible to tell how popular they may have been among Dover families in general. Adequate screening against flies and mosquitoes, satisfactory refrigeration, and protection against contamination of the water and milk supplies were the basic cures for most of the health hazards that beset Dover through its first century and a half, and all were far in the future when Henry M. Ridgely died.

Political activity in Dover is suggested rather than traced in this series of letters. Federalists, convinced the acts and policies of the Jefferson and Madison Administrations were ill-advised, unnecessary, unconstitutional and incompetently carried out, left no doubt as to their views on national affairs, but detailed discussions of local issues are scarce. One correspondent whimsically suggested that Henry M. Ridgely might profitably convert a certain talented young Democratic widow to Federalism, marry her, and then employ her forensic gifts "to fill the columns of the [*Federal*] *Ark*," a weekly being published in Dover in 1802. Feeling was so intense when David Hall, a Democrat, took office as Governor in that year that many partisans on both sides feared an armed riot at the inauguration, which in fact passed without incident. During the War of 1812 there was much anti-war and anti-administration feeling evident in the neighborhood, but there was also enthusiastic recruiting, formation of military companies of little boys who drilled in uniform on The Green, and, even among Federalists, resentment of the "unpatriotic" attitude prevalent in New England. Consequently it is difficult to gauge actual majority sentiment with regard to the war, but the entire village united in celebrating General Andrew Jackson's victory at New Orleans and of the peace a few days later¹⁷. Of the "illumination" on February 6, 1815, Mrs. Ridgely wrote:

"... it was very general and the town looked very pretty indeed. On account of the death of Mary's [Mrs. William Morris] infant [Louisa Morris] our house, of course, was in darkness but there was something extremely enlivening in the appearance of the town."

¹⁷Actually, the peace preceded the battle, but news of the latter was the first to reach both Dover and Washington.

Again on February 15th she added:

“Last evening we had a grand illumination in consequence of the report of peace; every house of any note, Dr. Morris’ excepted, was illuminated and the town looked extremely well.”

The bitter political battles of 1827-29, centering about the candidacies of John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson, had their repercussions in Dover. The lower house of the General Assembly, in January 1828, failed to organize because a tie vote prevented the selection of a Speaker and no acceptable division of patronage offices could be agreed upon. Later that same year Mrs. Ridgely reported to her daughter Elizabeth, at school in Philadelphia, that both Henry M. and Charles George Ridgely were absorbed in the campaign:

“Your father, thank Heaven, is in the land of the living . . . but so engaged in poloticks he is only a visitor at home. . . . I am tired of the name[s] of Jackson and Adams.”

The letters of this period make clear the pitiless use of patronage threats by both sides, a pressure felt keenly in Dover where many of the officials dependent upon legislative or executive appointments lived. Again in 1840 and 1844 the town was rocked with the passions of an unusually bitter Presidential race, when torch-light parades, log cabins, hard cider and live coons took their place in American political history. Each year until 1833, and biennially afterwards, Dover was the arena in which State issues were fought out in the Legislature. Since Delaware has only occasionally been a one-party State over any extended period, the Capital was nearly always assured a few months of lively argument and maneuvering whenever the General Assembly was in session.

Education in Dover has already been touched upon in describing conditions in Kent County in Henry M. Ridgely’s adult years. Since the specific situation in the village at various periods was of immediate importance to him and his family, and was sometimes a topic for correspondence, it merits a more detailed discussion. Charles George Ridgely, between his seventh and tenth years, attended a private school kept first by one Stephen Sykes, apparently a ne’er-do-well son of a respected Dover family, and later by a Mr. Hinckley of whom

little is known but his surname. The lad's curriculum, much of it actually taught by his mother during periods when school was very irregularly in session, included reading, with *Robinson Crusoe* and the Bible as texts at one time, arithmetic, spelling, geography, what appears to have been classical mythology and history, and, before his ninth birthday, Latin begun in "Sanford and Merton" and continued in the familiar *Selectae Profanis*. Penmanship had been taught by an itinerant writing master who offered fifteen two-hour lessons for \$5.00. The bargain was a good one, for the little boy wrote an acceptable hand for a child, at a far younger age than his father and Uncle George had done. Mr. Ridgely required frequent letters of his son, paid close attention to their composition and spelling, occasionally made errors of spelling or grammar in his own replies, asking the boy to find them, and encouraged him to observe and discuss current events. When the 1815 military campaign around New Orleans was shaping up, he sent home newspaper accounts for Charles, directing him to find in his gazeteer all the places mentioned so that he might follow subsequent reports with greater understanding. The lad was cautioned never to memorize without comprehending, or to fail to master the full meaning of words he read or heard. When he was only seven one of his tasks was to learn "six words and meanings in the dictionary every day." The traditional rite of "turning out the teacher" was not ignored in Dover. Neither were the amenities of fencing and dancing, also taught from time to time by some travelling teacher who stopped in the town for a few months. Apparently the schooling to be obtained in Dover about 1816 was not satisfactory, for Charles George was sent to St. Mary's college in Baltimore at twelve. On the other hand, Lyman B. Powell¹⁸ reports the Dover Academy was usually good and sometimes excellent in the period from 1810 until about 1840. There are records, also, of smaller private schools, generally for young children. A public school¹⁹ was opened in or before 1833, using a part of the Academy building. Like most other free schools of the County, its fortunes fluctuated as the annual battle "for or against tax" was won or lost, but in 1843 two teachers were being employed, one for a pri-

¹⁸Powell, L. B., *History of Education in Delaware*, Washington, D. C., 1893, pp. 55-57.

¹⁹Records of School District #18, Kent County, manuscript in possession of the Public Archives Commission, Dover, Delaware.

mary school enrolling thirteen boys and nineteen girls, the other for a "high school" of forty-four boys and eighteen girls. In 1843 a special law for this district permitted its commissioners to levy rate bills, subject to annual veto by the voters, against parents to supplement the funds received from the State and from local taxation. A list made out in that year shows that thirty-three families, including many of the more prominent ones, were sending their children. One of the younger Ridgelys, presumably Edward, was among those enrolled. A few years previous Nicholas Ridgely had been engaged as a teacher for six months. One of the few fragments of administrative detail extant is an order, in February 1840, that the school be in session daily including Saturday, from 8:30 to 12:00 and 1:30 to 5:00, with two fifteen-minute recesses. This was coupled with a reprimand to a teacher for taking his pupils on walks during school hours "as they have sufficient exercise at other times."

Churches continued to play a prominent part in village life. The Methodists were by far the largest denomination, while the Episcopal Church at several times suffered declines that threatened the continuance of its Dover congregation. The Rev. Mr. Robert Piggott, an artist as well as a clergyman, was the most notable of its rectors who appear in the correspondence of this period. Two members of the Ridgely family, Elizabeth and Nicholas, became converts to Methodism without meeting any opposition stronger than remonstrance. Nicholas gave the formalistic piety of the Episcopal clergymen of his acquaintance as his reason for seeking ordination as a Methodist; but, after his decision had been made, he remarked that had the Rev. Alfred Lee been Bishop of Delaware when he was considering the matter he would probably have chosen differently. Replying, in 1829, in a reverent and serious mood to Elizabeth's announcement of having joined the Methodists, Charles George Ridgely called her attention to their "bigottry", the appeal to unreasoning fear their ministers often made, and to the distasteful hysteria of many of the converts, adding:

"If you still adhere to the Methodist creed, my dear Sister, let me entreat you to use your own good sense; go with them [only] so far as it tells you is right What can you see in shouting to approve of, and what cannot you see that is censurable. I have seen at camp

meetings exhibitions of indecency whilst in this shouting at which even I have blushed. . . . Again, my dear Sister, I do most seriously object to night meetings—they are not, believe me, Elizabeth, they are not productive of good.”

There were instances of intense interdenominational rivalry, such as Mary (Ridgely) Morris reproving her sister-in-law for taking part in a Sunday School which she considered chiefly of Methodist inspiration, observing petulantly that she feared she herself was almost the only real Episcopalian left in Dover. It is also true that the letters provide illustrations of tolerant inter-church cooperation in these same years.

Another Dover institution of considerable interest was the Farmers Bank, organized in 1807, with Henry M. Ridgely as President. He held this post for forty years, and after a brief interval was followed in office by his son, Dr. Henry Ridgely, whose tenure was also long. In recent years another Henry Ridgely, son of Edward, filled the same position. Henry M. Ridgely's correspondence often alludes to problems that faced its early directors, among them placing and keeping its notes in circulation, meeting the competition of rivals who invaded the farming communities of central Delaware, and establishing policies with regard to loans. In and around 1827-28 the institution faced serious difficulties, apparently originating in the branches at New Castle and Wilmington, but it weathered them safely. An illuminating document from this period in the Bank's history is a letter from Cornelius P. Comegys, then cashier, begging Mr. Ridgely, who was in Washington as United States Senator, to intervene on behalf of the employes. He pointed out that their salaries had just been cut to a point where no one received more than \$600.00 yearly, and servants and runners were paid “the pitiful sum” of only \$20.00 yearly. “We are ruined”, Mr. Comegys concluded, “I mean the officers (cashiers and tellers) We look to you as our advocate and one of our best friends.”

This then was the little Dover of 1800-1850 so beloved by Henry M. Ridgely, the “miserable place” to which his wife never became fully reconciled, and the home town of which their sons and daughters wrote in every mood from tearful homesickness to derision.

One finds many details relating specifically to the Ridgely household of this period that unquestionably reflect customary practice in the village among families of comparable circumstances. Mrs. Ridgely confessed to having had both front doors painted yellow in her husband's absence and a little later she pleaded guilty to having sold a calf to defray the cost of building a small summer house in the garden, begging him to scold her at once, by letter, if she had done very wrong. Part of any careful housewife's task was to lay in a supply of several hundred pounds of beef and pork for the winter and to supervise its curing. When one learns that Mrs. Ridgely considered eleven hundred pounds of pork, which she feared would be as high at \$7.00 per hundred, about right for themselves and their servants it is easy to understand why a destructive fire in the smokehouse was a disaster of some proportion. Soap and garden seeds were among the everyday articles Congressman Ridgely was reminded to bring home from Washington along with his presents for the family. Among the latter was a promised doll from Georgetown, D. C., of which two-year-old Elizabeth prattled in eager anticipation. During one very hot summer within this span of years Mrs. Ridgely announced, with the air of having conducted a daring but successful experiment, that she had removed the feather mattresses and found a "hard bed" far cooler. She even believed it more healthful. The letters emphasize, too, the reverse of this picture, for the Congressman urged his wife to be sure to employ outside help if their own man, working full time, could not supply the fireplaces with wood enough to keep the large house comfortably warm during one of the bitter, windy winters Dover occasionally experiences. In the light of such comments the perennial complaints one reads in Delaware documents of the pre-coal era of thefts from woodlots take on very concrete meaning.

In sharp contrast to the correspondence of Ann (Moore) Ridgely's time, comparatively few of the series of letters centering about her son's household are between women responsible for the management of homes. Consequently, food, furniture, fabrics and styles are not emphasized. The casual references to such matters are, indeed, much too scattered to encourage generalization about what was eaten, worn, or worked with in Dover when Sally (Banning) Ridgely or her daughter Ann was the mistress of the old house on The Green. One of

the very few specific directions for preparing food dating from this period occurs in a letter between Ann, then Mrs. Charles I. duPont, and Rev. Nicholas Ridgely who was seeking help for his own young wife:

“Mother always worked her butter over once or twice, and after wrapping it in the inner corn husks she put it in pickle which would bear an egg, but she always said butter put up before the very last of September would not keep.”

What evidence we have in this series of letters suggests that Dover housewives of the two generations under discussion managed their affairs much as their mothers or grandmothers had done, for their problem was still one of keeping a large house in order, usually with a sizable staff of slaves, indentured servants, or, with growing frequency, hired hands; cooking with wood; laying away large stocks of provisions; and making on the premises all but the most formal of the clothing worn. It is true that women of 1800-1850 bought everyday as well as luxury fabrics ready made, that cookstoves came into more frequent use, that more rapid transportation extended the area from which supplies could be drawn, and that industrialization was beginning to make itself felt in the household goods available. None the less, these letters provide no evidence that a revolution occurred in Dover's kitchens and sewing rooms between the girlhoods of Henry M. Ridgely's sisters and of his daughters.

Descriptions of Dover from the pens of the Ridgely family between 1825 and 1850 differ so sharply it is sometimes hard to believe they actually refer to the same town and time. On the one hand there are such remarks as these: Dover is “as dissipated as ever”; “this dull and dissipated place”; “the society of Dover is so bad there are scarcely any I should feel willing for you [fifteen-year-old Elizabeth] to associate with”; “this dirty place” is the sort that requires plenty of gingham dresses; its dull parties “lack accomplishment and I [Charles George Ridgely] may even say the common courtesies of life”; and finally there is no news of Dover included in a letter “because I [Henry M. Ridgely] never talk slander”. Many of these disparaging comments, it is true, were written in the years just prior to 1830, when the town was seething with slanderous rumors, a few possibly justified, others the invention of

some venomous tongue and warped mind of the sort that every community must occasionally suffer. Not all of them, however, date from this unhappy period. But in sharp contrast one also becomes acquainted with a town where teen-age girls met for walks after tea, looked forward eagerly to parties, rode horse-back, drove out into the country to visit friends, or now and then made up a party with their elders to go out to the Bay to "take tea on the grass under the trees." Reminiscences of the Ridgely home include family groups on "the porch", its location now only guessed at, with Elizabeth at the piano, and singing, conversation and laughter in the background; Henry M. Ridgely walking up and down in "the hall," reading aloud to himself, unconscious of an admiring little niece who slipped in to listen; happy groups in the garden on summer evenings with bunches of mint ablaze as protection against mosquitoes; carefree days out on the farms the family owned; Christmas dinners with family and guests about a holiday table either at "The Chancellor's" or on The Green; parents and children gathered in "the hall" around a roaring October fire reading, studying, sewing and talking in quiet contentment. Scattered through the years are accounts of long visits happily remembered by both guest and host, and of fellow-townsmen who were welcome callers and treasured friends. Although it is evident that there were many unpleasant factors, a few of them even vicious, in Dover's life when Henry M. Ridgely's large family was growing up, it was the wholesome and joyous aspects of the community that proved the stronger influence upon his children and their contemporaries.

As their family had done since its first settlement in Dover, Henry M. Ridgely, his wife and their children maintained ties with many places beyond the limits of their home county. Familiar Wilmington, New Castle and Philadelphia continued important in the Ridgely story; Baltimore provided an occasional scene of action; and Washington, D. C., between the years 1811-1815, and 1827-1829, came into considerable prominence. Numerous other towns, some nearby, others in far corners of the Nation, also appeared in the correspondence though in context too casual to require special comment. The family in this generation, one need only say, remained as unprovincial as before.

In Mr. Ridgely's early manhood both he and his wife were frequent visitors to Wilmington, and throughout their lives had many associates there. Their letters and their children's, none the less, add disappointingly little to our knowledge of this bustling settlement as it grew from some four thousand²⁰ residents in 1800 to nearly fourteen thousand in 1850 and as its industrial potential developed rapidly along a score of lines, among them milling, shipbuilding, textiles and explosives. Through the Ridgely correspondence of this period one sees its busy life only in disjointed glimpses. Here Henry M. Ridgely suffered a slight wound in a duel fought not long before his wedding. Here, too, he was married. His young bride returned for visits of long or short duration and wrote to him of her own social calls and his friends' determination to send him to Congress. In turn he warned her against attempting to travel the dangerous road from town to her step-father's suburban home after dark, and she was regaled with the tale of her husband "beating and thundering" for admittance at the door of Brinton's Tavern for a full hour one frosty November morning when he arrived to board the stage due to leave for Dover at five-thirty. Later one catches glimpses of Wilmington intimates of the entire family, realizes that the Ridgely children, too, visited the town on occasion, hears of sleighing and ox-roasts on the Christina River during a particularly bitter winter or of the "religious privileges" Wilmington residents enjoyed. But its trade, commerce and industry, as the town filled the triangle between the Brandywine and Christina Creeks more solidly decade by decade, appears only incidentally. Its public opinion and political preferences during this period have little bearing on the Ridgely correspondence. It is significant, however, that Wilmington, during this period, grew to be more and more Northern in its proclivity. Religious or political conviction made many, possibly most, residents opponents of slavery²¹, while business interests linked its material prosperity to other industrial centers and brought its merchants and manufacturers into contact with the attitudes current in such communities. During this period Wilmington began to supply the lower counties with many of the staples they once obtained from Philadelphia. It

²⁰The census schedule of 1800 shows 4066 residents, occupying 525 houses; 565 persons were Negroes, 121 of them slaves.

²¹The Census of 1850 indicates that no slaves were then owned in Wilmington. There were 2140 Negroes among the 13,979 residents.

is of some interest, too, that the two youngest Ridgely children were sent to Wilmington to complete their formal education, rather than to Philadelphia or Baltimore as the two eldest had been. Williamina attended Dubre Knight's widely known boarding school in 1841-42, while Edward was enrolled at St. Mary's College, in Wilmington, from shortly after his father's death until his graduation.

New Castle was another spot as familiar to Henry M. Ridgely and his children as it had been to his parents and grandparents. Since it remained the seat of its county throughout Mr. Ridgely's lifetime, it was one of the three professionally important centers in the State for lawyer members of the family, and was the home of many of their colleagues. Personal friendships among these associates in many instances ripened into intimacies for both Henry M. and Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely, and in a few cases made close ties between all the Ridgelys and entire New Castle families. This was especially true of the Black and the Rogers families who appear with considerable prominence in the Ridgely correspondence relating to the upper County.

As was true of it a generation earlier, the New Castle of 1800-1850 was a pretty village, centering about its courthouse square and its harbor near the head of Delaware Bay. Many of its houses were exquisitely designed and beautifully maintained. A few dated from early colonial times, many were of early post-Revolutionary date, while still others among its handsome homes were built during the years when Henry M. Ridgely and his family were frequent visitors. Inns, stores, warehouses and a variety of unpretentious homes jostled its mansions along its Strand, around its Green, and down its less-travelled streets. In 1824, a disastrous fire swept the waterfront, destroying the greater portion of both residential and business structures in that area. It is interesting to note that the people of Boston, who had received relief from the people of New Castle and other parts of Delaware when the British blockaded that port in 1775, were among the first to send aid to New Castle in its time of trouble. The Federal Census of 1800 lists New Castle as a community of 108 dwelling houses with 822 inhabitants, of whom 161 were Negroes, 58 of them slaves. Among the 661 white residents, the men had a narrow majority of 25; only 62 white individuals were listed as over forty-five years of age.

By 1850 the town claimed slightly over 1200 inhabitants of whom about 250 were free Negroes, none were slaves, and a startling proportion were white women, who outnumbered white men by almost an even hundred.

The town's importance as a junction point was maintained nearly to the end of Henry M. Ridgely's life, and during much of that period it was greater than it had been before 1800. In the earlier part of the new century there was much traffic up, down and across the Delaware River and Bay, especially after the steamboats brought a large share of the passenger traffic back to the waterways. For all of these vessels, New Castle was a logical stopping point. About 1811 the New Castle-Frenchtown Turnpike Company improved the sixteen miles of roadway across the neck of the peninsula to speed the already good and heavily-patronized stagecoach service between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. In 1832 the New Castle and Frenchtown Turnpike and Railway Company replaced the fast stage coaches with one of the earliest steam railways in America. The letters refer several times to this railroad, once in context to make it appear that the line was ready for a short demonstration run a year earlier than secondary sources have stated. Eugene Rogers, in a letter very clearly dated July 5, 1830, told Elizabeth Ridgely about the crowd which had come to New Castle for the Fourth of July, adding that "the cars went very well except the steam-car, I believe something was wrong about the works." For the next decade New Castle was a major transfer point, eating place and overnight stop on the main land-water route from Philadelphia, New York and New England to Baltimore, Washington and the South, while remaining a center of local travel between lower Delaware, eastern Maryland, southern Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. In the early 1840's, through railroad connections from Philadelphia to Baltimore via Wilmington diverted much of this traffic from New Castle, but the steamboats plying the River and Bay long remained an important factor in the town's business. Ocean-going vessels as well, relying upon sail until near the close of the period under discussion, still lay over at New Castle, often taking on provisions there, as they had done in the previous century. Since this was true of naval as well as merchant ships, it resulted in the formation of a little clique of Navy wives in the village, more than one of them doubtless a former New Castle belle who had flirted with a succession

of "handsome middies" until a day when the game was suddenly played in earnest and flirting overnight became "a crime". Schooners of the Coast Survey, about 1840, also made New Castle a regular port of call.

Of this town Chancellor Ridgely wrote in 1821, "Religion and the Church is the perpetual Theme of Discourse", though he feared the residents' piety had little practical application. He commented again in 1827:

"The good People of this Place are going on, without the least Deviation, in their usual Habits of going to Church, in the Day and in the Night; visiting at Night, after Tea; having Parties and enjoying themselves in their innocent Amusements, the young Ladies having had parties three successive nights. . ."

During the New Castle visit just alluded to, the aging Chancellor thought it wise to decline an invitation "to sup on Terrapin and Oysters" with a party of gentlemen. He was shocked, too, when his nephew Charles George Ridgely started off to a ball at St. Georges, a few miles away, after eight o'clock at night, and in the rain. At New Castle members of the Ridgely family, like other travellers, sometimes stopped at one of the taverns for dinner, changed from stagecoach to boat or train, or spent the night before continuing a journey. It was from New Castle that an elderly hostess wrote Elizabeth Ridgely that her house and garden had become very quiet without the bevy of beaux who had clustered about the vivacious girl on a recent visit there, and that Elizabeth herself had written home of a gay and novel party aboard a ship about to sail for Russia. Though religious scruples made pretty Miss Ridgely refrain from dancing, she had on that occasion spent a charming evening walking the deck with a personable young officer. Ann Ridgely, too, was a frequent visitor at New Castle a few years later. Her letters from Sarah Black, written from that town between 1835 and 1841, picture one of its young girls, interested in novels and poetry, walks in the country, and good conversation. She obviously was intelligent and well educated, but sentimental, frequently childish, in her emotional responses; a heartless flirt; but none the less an appealing person and one whose casual comments help reconstruct the New Castle of a hundred years ago.

Philadelphia, no longer the national capital, remained a growing and important city throughout this period, with thriving industry and commerce, cultural interests, and scientific distinction. By 1850 it had a population above 121,000 in the city proper. It was not, however, as important in the Ridgely's scheme of life as it had been in earlier generations, for intimacy with relatives in the Moore family did not long survive Ann (Moore) Ridgely, and no other ties quite so close were formed with others living in Philadelphia. True, the city was still a favorite shopping place for all articles in the least unusual, such as good clothing, fine household supplies or new furnishings. Sally (Banning) Ridgely as a young wife coaxed her husband to take her there for a few days shopping and diversion; when their daughter Ann, in 1841, was preparing for her wedding, it was to Philadelphia she went to make her purchases. In the years between, members of the family visited the city for business, pleasure, or schooling on innumerable occasions, many of them recorded in the correspondence. Charles George, Elizabeth and Henry Ridgely, indeed, each lived there for a year or more and during that time wrote letters that have been preserved. From each, one glimpses a different vista of Philadelphia. To brilliant, unstable Charles George, in the later 1820's, it was a place offering "rational" amusements in a cultivated setting; the companionship of young ladies of intelligence and breeding; pleasant, if sometimes absurd, social amenities; and, as time dragged on, it came to mean professional opportunities often promised only to be maddently withdrawn. Elizabeth's Philadelphia had two utterly distinct segments: the cultured home of her aunt, her mother's half-sister Mrs. W. W. Wright, where she enjoyed a pleasant social life in company with cousins of about her own age; and Mrs. Grelaud's exclusive boarding school, synonymous in her mind with the most restrictive of prisons. Henry, as a young medical student, saw a still different city, made up for the most part of the faculty and facilities of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, the companions of classroom and boarding house, and the dealers in medical books and supplies, whom he accused of gulling unsuspecting young students without mercy. Red-letter days in his calendar were most often professional ones, an opportunity to witness an amputation, or the successful completion of a difficult examination. To him we are also indebted for a description of a shipboard dinner of "chicken, roast beef, peas, beans, pota-

toes and other articles too numerous to mention" eaten enroute between New Castle and Philadelphia, and enjoyed while a survivor of a recent shipwreck told of near-starvation during his days adrift. It was Charles George Ridgely, writing in a penitent mood to his mother, who supplied a footnote about the customary heavy drinking aboard steamboats, those on the Delaware among the rest. Through the eyes of young Nicholas Ridgely's friend Benjamin B. Comegys one sees bits of a mercantile clerk's life in Philadelphia, the "keeping of two sets of books by double entry", the tedium and pressure of a not-too-congenial employment, and the thankless task of bringing up to date a predecessor's neglected work. This young man's chief interest in life, however, was the church, a theme to be more fully developed in relation to the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely's own career. The intensely emotional and formalistic Protestantism of which these letters provide such a detailed case study must, however, be kept in mind in picturing mid-century Philadelphia. During this period there was a constant interchange of merchandise, visitors, permanent residents, and ideas, between the metropolis and the smaller communities of the region it dominated. But, if the Ridgely records can be taken as typical, the relationship had subtly changed: Washington was the national capital; one could no longer say that a daughter in New York "might almost as well be in London"; Baltimore had grown to an important city almost as accessible from central Delaware as Philadelphia was; Wilmington and similar medium-sized towns were becoming satisfactory places to shop for necessities and the more common luxuries. Philadelphia, in short, changed during Henry M. Ridgely's manhood from *The City* to *a city* in the minds of Delaware Valley residents.

The Baltimore from which the younger Henry Ridgely wrote in the 1830's of jostling Christmas crowds before gaily-decorated shops, oppressive summer heat, inns convenient and otherwise, occasionally of a robbery, a murder or a grisly Fourth of July accident was then a rapidly-growing port with an important domestic and foreign trade. *Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State* gives the city's population in 1825 as 72,000. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, completed only to Ellicott's Mills when Henry Ridgely was a schoolboy, was still a novelty, but one that was destined to guarantee the city a large share of the Western trade as the line progressed. St. Mary's College

was only one of several good educational institutions situated there, though the fact that Henry M. Ridgely's two eldest sons attended it gives it a prominent place in the Ridgely records of the earlier nineteenth century and makes it appear, from the viewpoint of the letters, like the hub of Baltimore.

Washington, at two periods of Mr. Ridgely's life, assumed a peculiar significance in his affairs, in a sense comparable to the place Philadelphia had filled for his parents, yet in many ways quite different. It afforded the same contact with issues of national and international moment as Philadelphia had done, but in a fantastically different setting. Philadelphia, when it was the Federal Capital, had been a larger and handsomer city, with a more diversified and continental life of fashion, culture, manufacture and trade than any other in the Country; Washington, in 1810 to 1815, or even 1827 to 1829, was still a sprawling village.

The District of Columbia, acquired by the United States in 1790, originally measured ten miles square, its rolling, wooded hills on both sides of the Potomac rising with some abruptness from the sometimes marshy flats close to the river banks. Included within it were the established towns of Georgetown, Maryland and Alexandria, Virginia, as well as two proposed townsites, and a great expanse of magnificent open country. Under President Washington's personal supervision a Commission set to work on organizational details almost at once. By the spring of 1791, Pierre l'Enfant had, at their direction, started drawing plans for a capital city worthy of a great nation, and in June of that year Washington himself selected the sites for the Capitol and the President's House. For a time the work progressed briskly, but soon lagged so seriously that the public buildings were not fully ready for the government personnel, then said to number one hundred twenty-six, when President Adams and his staff arrived in June 1800. Congress met in the city for the first time in December of that year.

When Henry M. Ridgely visited the city in 1808 he reported it a drab, muddy, uninteresting spot with nothing praiseworthy even as a beginning except the uncompleted Hall of the House of Representatives. Taking his seat in that building as a member of Congress in 1811 did not alter his opinion, for he soon complained of Washington as "a wilderness" without amenities

or amusements to compensate for separation from home and family. Its public buildings of a permanent nature, it is true, were but two, neither finished. Two wings of the Capitol, the Senate Chamber, known to modern visitors as the old Supreme Court Chamber, and the House Chamber, now Statuary Hall, both of stone, were in use, connected by a hundred-foot frame gallery at the point where the Rotunda now supports the dome. The President's House, then with its original limestone exterior, stood a mile distant, complete except for the south portico, which was added in President Madison's Administration. Pennsylvania Avenue, from Jefferson's time, was tree-lined, but its broad expanse was unpaved until after Henry M. Ridgely's public service had ended. During his term in the Senate, it was lighted by oil over only a portion of its length.

Taverns, boarding houses, and the homes of a scattering of permanent residents housed a population of about 8000 in 1810. The most thickly settled portion in the earlier years was that about Lafayette Square. The business of the Federal Government itself, accommodations for the large number of transients that business brought to the city, a Navy Yard and a few scattered stores, the latter not nearly so well stocked as those at Georgetown, then a separate community, provided the chief occupations of the city's residents. One will recall that much of modern Washington was laid down on the original plot. It is, consequently, not surprising that what to us appears a well-conceived plan for orderly expansion seemed to early residents like senselessly inconvenient distances, space for winds to howl, and interminable miles of mud. Although the city grew rapidly enough in the thirteen years between Mr. Ridgely's House and Senate terms for men to begin to see what it might some day become, in 1827 it still showed but a lank and ill-distributed covering for its huge frame.

Nevertheless, Washington's shortcomings as a great national capital did not prevent Congressman Ridgely from being very comfortably situated to judge from a description he sent home in December 1811:

"The House is an immense one, situated on Capitol Hill and the nearest house to the Capitol. My roome is [in] front, . . . , with a south exposure and looking towards the capitol, on the third floor. I chose it in preference to

every room in the house, and I suppose there are fifty of them."

His land-lord was Mr. B. F. Tomlinson, who had taken over the City Hotel within the month, and who was to manage it for just over two years. During this time it was the scene of balls, lectures, dinners and annual stockholders' meetings as well as a fashionable lodging place. The building was among those burned when Washington was captured in 1814.

The following session, 1812-13, when Mr. Ridgely moved to Mrs. Wadsworth's, he wrote his wife an even more detailed account of his room and its furnishings, though he said little of the house as a whole:

"It is on the second story and on the same floor with the dining room, twenty by eighteen feet, clear of the closets and fireplace, completely protected from the weather. All the walls are inside walls [except] on [the] East front in which there are two large windows. In it are two large closets and a very good fireplace. The furniture consists of a mahogany bureau with four drawers, . . . four chairs, a toilette table & dressing glass, a writing table, a carpet that covers the whole floor, tongs & shovel & hearth brush, green ba[i]ze window blinds and white dimity window curtains, washstand, basin, pitcher and tumbler, a mahogany bedstead with white dimity curtains, a large and excellent bed with white cotton counterpane, linen sheets, and blankets very large and plenty of them."

The significance of "washstand, basin and pitcher" is underscored by a letter written the following June as members were beginning to leave off their "flannels" in deference to the approach of Washington's sultry summer:

"I have however this season an advantage that I had not the last. There are now some very good baths put up, which I have engaged during the session of Congress. They are, though, rather far from my lodgings, being just back of Davis' tavern . . . and nearly a mile from Mrs. Wadsworth's. I get up, however, every morning about sunrise and the walk to the baths serves for exercise."

Mr. Ridgely noted in his diary that he paid \$5.00 for the use of the baths for the session. He mentioned elsewhere that each member of the mess at Tomlinson's in 1811 paid \$10.00 weekly, which apparently included board, lodging, fuel and service, and in 1814 three couples contracted for bedrooms for each, with sitting room, and dining room to be shared among the party, at the rate of \$12.00 a week "for ourselves, the same for our wives and \$4.00 for each servant." This last arrangement Mr. Ridgely considered expensive but so pleasant he thought the extravagance justified for one winter in Washington with his "lovely Sally." At this time a Representative's salary was \$6.00 a day during the session.

In the lodging houses frequented by Congressmen and others of similar standing, the mess was the unit on which social life was organized. Each, apparently, consisted of some six to a dozen members who took their meals together, had the joint use of a drawing room and provided one another with much of their recreation. Congressman Ridgely often wrote, during his years in the capital, of the several congenial circles to which he belonged, and of pleasant evenings at his lodgings, spent in conversation, reading aloud, chess or an occasional game of battledore. He added the very human touches that one or two members of the group were greatly annoyed by the reading, that games of battledore were not popular with fellow-lodgers trying to write letters, and that his whole mess was highly amused when its chess champion met ignominious defeat at the hands of "an old woman."

Though it appears to have been such informal entertainment that Mr. Ridgely enjoyed most, he did attend a variety of formal gatherings, both official and private. Dinners were frequent, with other members of Congress, the various foreign ministers, and at rare intervals the President, as hosts. Calls upon Mrs. Madison from time to time, especially prior to the declaration of war, were almost obligatory. One was also expected to pay his respects to other ladies of prominence, and to the wives, daughters or sisters of personal friends who visited the city. Appearance at a discreet number of evening parties, dances and formal receptions given by various officials and by private citizens resident in the capital was customary, but Mr. Ridgely determined at one point to attend no more until he could bring his wife to Washington. Some of these gatherings

were of the ostentatious sort that he considered in very poor taste, among them a certain large dance in honor of an infant's christening to which utter strangers to the host were bidden; others proved very pleasant occasions. There were, too, public performances, such as an exhibition, in its "handsome case," of the "Panharmonicon" which united "the flute, clarinet, french horn, kettle-drum and perhaps half a dozen other instruments" to produce very acceptable music.

As one might suppose, political alignments were so tightly bound in with social activities that it is difficult to discuss one without the other. There was, for instance, an enthusiastic celebration of a Russian victory over the French, with many guests coming from a distance. Again, Mr. Ridgely remarked wryly not long before diplomatic relations with England were severed that "all parties" continued to accept invitations to dine at the British Ministry, since even Republicans preferred "the roast beef of old England to the soup meagre of France." The savage division of opinion that preceded hostilities and continued with all but treasonable ferocity throughout the war left its mark upon social relationships. The Federalists in general boycotted the President's levées, though Congressman Ridgely and a few colleagues who considered the move ill-advised did attend on one or two occasions. By 1815 political tensions and the disruption of life caused by the partial burning of Washington had nearly terminated "sociability" among the members of Congress, and the Federalists, in addition, found themselves ostracized by local residents because of their proposal to move the seat of government. New England secessionists, too, had proved a grave embarrassment to their less-rabid colleagues in the Federalist party, who finally felt themselves obliged to ignore the delegates from the Hartford Convention who ineptly arrived almost with the announcement of the victorious close of the war.

In line with the intense partisan spirit throughout the conflict, President Madison and administration leaders were accused of having deliberately started the war for mere party advantage, and of direct personal responsibility for the disasters that overtook the inadequately-prepared American forces during the earlier stages of the fighting. When Madison was taken seriously ill, a correspondent inquiring about his condition remarked, "Few would lament if the 'war fever' carried

him to his grave." There was opposition even to the proper defense of Washington and very evident complacency after the first feint toward the city was beaten off. When the actual safety of the capital was at issue, there was complaint that farmers were subject to unwarranted crop losses because military authorities "carry on with a pretty high hand", forcing militiamen to report to their companies, "even men who [had] procured substitutes." When, somewhat later, inadequately-trained militia broke and ran before a British thrust, leaving Washington in enemy hands, there is no evidence that critics of earlier attempts to force seasoning of militiamen felt any share of responsibility for the defeat. To the very end of the war, there was the gravest defeatism among Federalists. As late as January 26, 1815 Henry M. Ridgely wrote that he might have to draw for his own use upon funds left for household expenses in the bank in Dover, because the sergeant-at-arms reported "there was not a cent in the Treasury . . . to pay the members of Congress You see therefore the miserable condition to which the men in power have reduced this nation!" On January 29th he was even more depressed as he declared himself:

"sick and tired of this horrible place . . . No amusement, no society. The moment you step out of doors the ruins of the public edifices present to your mind irresistible proof of the folly of the declaration of war and the imbecility and weakness of our rulers."

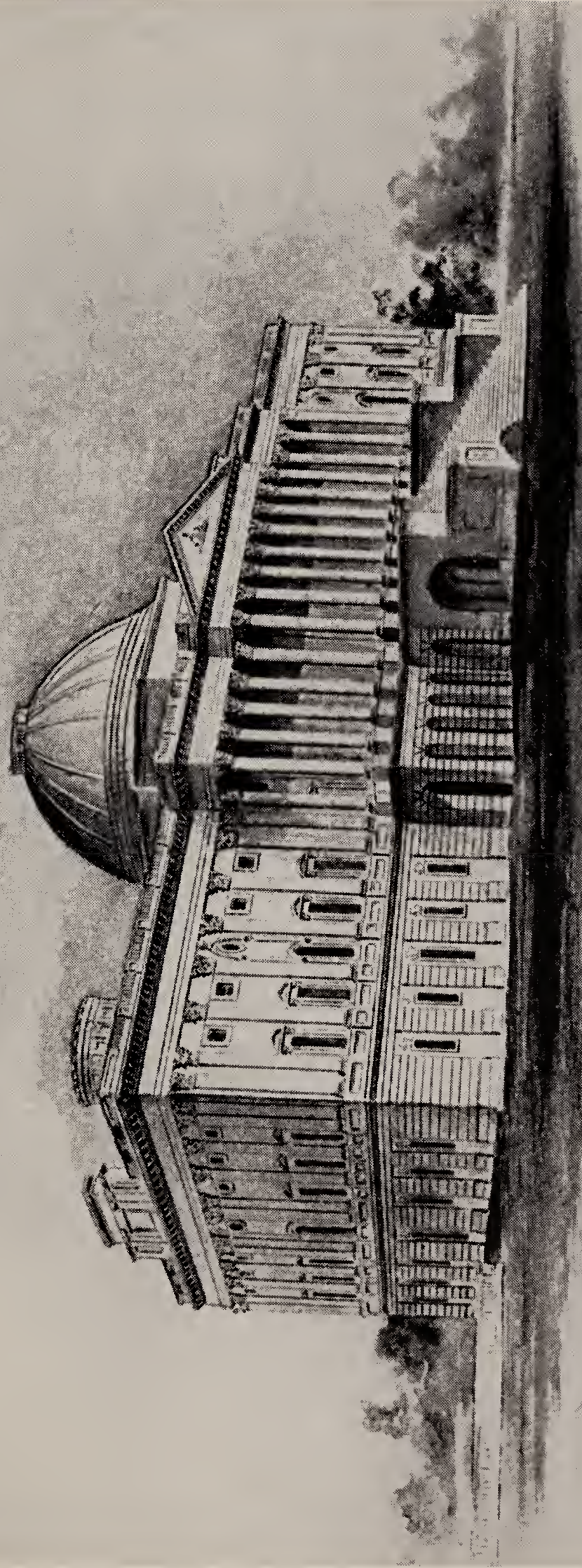
A few weeks later, after Washington had been twice "brilliantly illuminated" with tiers of candles showing in every front window of most houses in the town in celebration of the sweeping American victory at New Orleans, and of the peace which shortly followed it, he had changed his mind enough to remark:

"Nor do I think the war itself has been of any disservice to the United States. In several points of view it has been of great advantage."

Since Henry M. Ridgely had not been a candidate for reelection in the fall of 1814, March 1815 marked the end of his service in the House. Consequently he did not witness the renovation and new construction that began in Washington just after the close of the war. The Capitol was repaired, carried toward completion, and landscaped. Scars of the occupation were removed from the President's House, and tradition says it received

its characteristic white coating over its smoke-blackened limestone walls. Damaged private structures were replaced and new ones added to such an extent that the city, by 1830, counted approximately 19,000 residents in contrast to the 8000 of 1810. The central section of the Capitol was completed in 1827. A copper-sheathed wooden dome, lower than the one familiar to twentieth-century Americans, but none the less impressive and well proportioned, surmounted the new structure; and broad marble steps led up to its eastern entrance. Washington was still more a series of straggling villages than a metropolis; but Mr. Ridgely, returning as a Senator in 1827, told his wife that its appearance had improved greatly since their winter there together in 1814. Indeed, one finds in his letters occasional hints of pride in it, as when he wrote of the "beautiful and magnificent terrace of the capitol". In the same letter he remarked that the town's society, he feared, had deteriorated. Either he changed his mind as he became better acquainted, or he grew too engrossed in public business to care, for the comment was not repeated, and subsequent letters suggest that he enjoyed his sojourn. From time to time there are reminders of the social life of the capital, among them a formal invitation for "alternate Wednesdays" between December 26 and March 20, presumably in the winter of 1827-28, from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clay; but in general, family, business and political matters occupied Senator Ridgely's attention through these years.

Washington politics, by the time Mr. Ridgely took his Senate seat, was centered around the coming Presidential election, with the incumbent John Quincy Adams and General Andrew Jackson already marked as the leading candidates. Like many before and since, the election of 1828 was disgraced by irresponsible statements in the realm of public affairs and scurrilous attacks upon the personal characters of both contestants. Its emotional intensity, its patronage angles, and the strategy of pro-Jackson forces were important factors in shaping Henry M. Ridgely's senatorial career, and all found their way in one form or another into his correspondence. Public men were already expected, too, to concern themselves with the personal problems of constituents who had business with the Federal government. Senator Ridgely's papers, for example, include a complaint from a Delawarean whose vessel had been seized by Spanish privateers, with an accompanying



THE NATIONAL CAPITOL ABOUT 1828 AS HENRY M. RIDGE LY WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT.
FROM A SKETCH BY CHARLES BULLFINCH

draught in the Senator's hand, stating the claim in proper form for consideration by the department to which he referred the matter.

President Andrew Jackson's Inauguration brought to a close Henry M. Ridgely's intimate association with Washington. His final weeks there, however, were of great interest in family annals, for he brought his wife, daughter Elizabeth, and his wife's niece Elizabeth Davis to witness the event he had worked so enthusiastically to bring to pass.

The city was probably more crowded than ever before in its history as personal admirers of General Jackson and office seekers alike jostled one another in its muddy streets to see the new President take office. Mrs. Ridgely heard that many prospective visitors had been paying board in Washington for weeks in advance of their arrival in order to hold accommodations, and her husband himself was forced to veto a plan to add their fourteen-year-old daughter Ann to their party, because of space limitations, though he was otherwise pleased with the quarters he obtained. None of the Ridgely family, unfortunately, has left a clear description of this historic Inauguration from either a public or a personal point of view, though much of its spirit can be reconstructed from the bits of information they have preserved. Senator Ridgely's eagerness to see his candidate installed was almost as unmistakeable as his anxiety to have his wife, of whom he was so proud, and their eldest daughter with him on such an occasion. Through late January and early February the two girls, Elizabeth Ridgely and Elizabeth Davis, both about sixteen, moved in a blur of preparations and apprehension lest Mrs. Ridgely, who dreaded the cold, rough, tedious trip with the prospect of crowds, noise and inconvenience at its end, should change her mind about going. It was decided that two party dresses would be sufficient for charming Miss Ridgely, and that a black velvet hat trimmed with one ostrich plume would be a suitable addition to her wardrobe. There was, too, a green silk dress with braid, to reward Ann for bravely accepting her disappointment at being left behind, and a little later the promise of an even handsomer dress to be brought from Washington for her. One suspects that Mrs. Ridgely shrank from the bustle and crudeness of which historians tell us, for she neither attended many social functions nor greatly enjoyed those she did. But for her daughter and niece the time

was a thoroughly happy one, marred only by the occasional need to miss one of the dances, parties and dinners that occupied fashionable Washington during the busy days around March 4, 1829.

Although ex-Senator Ridgely continued to discuss public affairs with acquaintances in the capital, he only visited it from time to time, sometimes with one or another of his younger children as they grew to an age to enjoy the trip. After his return from President Jackson's Inauguration, the city ceased to have a more important place in his affairs than in those of any other private citizen with a strong interest in politics. His two periods of residence there none the less exercised a continuing influence upon his own thinking and upon the affairs of his family.

It is difficult to characterize in a few sentences a lifetime as rich in experience as Henry M. Ridgely's was, especially when the letters that recorded it cover so long a period and involve so many individuals. Perhaps it is better to let the letters speak for themselves.



VIEW OF THE NATIONAL HOTEL, 1836

CHAPTER I

NICHOLAS RIDGELY

1762

1830

The eldest child of Dr. Charles Ridgely and his first wife, Mary Wynkoop, named Nicholas after his grandfather,¹ was born September 30, 1762, probably at "Eden Hill", the Ridgely home plantation, where he undoubtedly spent his babyhood. Just after his fourth birthday, the little boy was so ill his father feared the outcome would be "very dubious"; but by the spring of 1767, when the family moved into the house on Dover Green, which still remains the property of descendants, he had "perfectly recovered." No further details of his early childhood are known, though the inference is clear that he and his younger brothers were not sent away from home to school. When he was barely ten, his mother died, leaving to the care of her bewildered husband four little boys, in addition to an infant daughter who lived but a few weeks. Although Dr. Ridgely succeeded in keeping a home for his "poor little boys" and gave them special attention, his grief in the lonely months that followed was augmented by worry over having to leave them in the hands of indifferent housekeepers whenever professional duties claimed his time. Despite the concern he felt over the neglect they were subjected to, the children were a source of comfort and pride to the young widower. Some eighteen months after his wife's death, Dr. Ridgely wrote to his beloved brother-in-law Charles Inglis: "Nickey Ridgely is reading Latin, my other boys English. They are all really promising, but don't all parents think so of their children!"

In June, 1774, shortly before Nicholas was twelve, his father, in part for the boys' sake, remarried. Dr. Ridgely's choice of Miss Ann Moore for his second wife proved a happy one for all who were affected by it; for the future Chancellor it opened a relationship of lasting mutual affection and respect. While the records of his early life are not extant or are too incomplete even to show where he acquired his excellent classical education, all the circumstances that are known point to its having been a

¹Copy of the Ridgely Family Bible records in the possession of the Public Archives Commission, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware, vol. 87, page 194.3.

happy period. His affection for Ann (Moore) Ridgely's two sons and three daughters was unmistakable. Toward the end of Mrs. Ridgely's life, one of her daughters, reproving her for a passing irritation with Nicholas, reminded her of the many "proofs of his tenderness" which convinced the family he had always "behaved to you as he would have done to his own mother."

Neither family correspondence nor biographical sketches have disclosed precisely when Nicholas Ridgely entered upon his legal apprenticeship under the tutelage of Robert Goldsborough of Cambridge, Maryland. One of his step-mother's letters of advice to her own son Henry, however, states that "your brother . . . studied much longer [than four years] and did not begin to practice till he was 23 years old", that is, about the beginning of 1786. By August, 1787 Nicholas was able to tell his brother Abraham Ridgely that his practice was so encouraging he had declined to jeopardize it by taking an active part in partisan politics. But the same letter indicated his deep concern for the success of the Federal Constitutional Convention then in session in Philadelphia. Consequently it is not surprising to learn he did take an active part in the campaign for acceptance of the new frame of government. Shortly after his twenty-fifth birthday he was chosen a member of Delaware's ratifying convention of December 7, 1787, and was elected to the Council [State Senate] for the term 1788-1791. In 1791, when Mr. Ridgely was twenty-nine, he was appointed attorney general of Delaware. During that same year delegates were elected to examine and revise, or if necessary rewrite, the State's Constitution. Nicholas Ridgely was one of the ten delegates sent from Kent County. He was "perhaps the youngest man in the Convention,"² but one of its most conscientious, interested and influential members. The document he assisted in drafting, a complete departure from the 1776 stop-gap Constitution, became the foundation of the modern government of Delaware. Chosen to the General Assembly at the first election held under the new Constitution, Mr. Ridgely was active in revising existing laws to conform to the new charter. He was again an assemblyman in 1796, 1797, 1799, 1800 and 1801. During this entire decade he continued as attorney general, and his correspondence sug-

²*Delaware Register*, vol. I, No. 1, p. 39, edited by William Huffington, Dover, Del., 1838.

gests that he had a private law practice as well. Mrs. Ann (Moore) Ridgely is the authority for the statement that, in 1797, he was planning to retire in about four years.

In actual fact, at the close of 1801 his most important work proved not to be ending, but beginning. When William Killen, the first Chancellor of the State, resigned in December of that year, Nicholas Ridgely was appointed to succeed him. The Constitution of 1792 had made the Chancellor sole judge of the equity jurisdiction, while an amendment in 1802 constituted him sole judge of the Orphans' Court, also. Daniel M. Bates,³ writing in 1876 from Federal Judge Willard Hall's reminiscences, states that the office, though in theory the highest in the State judiciary, was of little practical importance under Chancellor Killen, who was seventy years of age when the court was set up and nearly eighty when he retired. To Nicholas Ridgely, consequently, coming at thirty-nine as a respected member of the bar and a well-trained legal theorist with court and legislative experience behind him, fell the opportunity of setting the precedents and enhancing the prestige of a virtually new court. He served as Chancellor for a few months over twenty-eight years, literally to the day of his death, April 1, 1830. Shortly after he had adjourned a late session of the Orphans' Court at Georgetown in Sussex County on that date, he was stricken with a heart seizure which proved fatal in a few minutes. He was buried in Christ Churchyard in Dover, at the gates of which the Delaware Historic Markers Commission has placed a bronze tablet to his memory.

The most complete source of data for a study of Chancellor Ridgely's legal activity is his own series of voluminous notes on cases argued before him between 1814 and 1830, now in the custody of Harvard Law School and recently published.⁴ The earliest known biography of the Chancellor is one published by William Huffington in *The Delaware Register* some eight years after the jurist's death.⁵ Though that essay is very subjective in its approach, other sources support its accuracy when it speaks of the high regard in which the Delaware bar held

³*Sketches of the Deceased Chancellors of the State of Delaware*, by Daniel Bates, p. 5, James and Webb, Printers, Wilmington, Delaware, 1876.

⁴*Delaware Cases 1792-1830*, edited by Daniel J. Boorstin, West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1943, vol. II, pp. 271-529, vol. III, pp. 1-219.

⁵Huffington, *op. cit.*, pp. 40-42.

Nicholas Ridgely, of his integrity, his insistence on a thorough presentation of every case brought before him, of his intolerance of attempts at deliberate injustice, and of his consideration for inexperienced practitioners before his bench, as well as of his high native intelligence and through legal training. This sketch concludes with the following description of the jurist: "In person, Mr. Ridgely was about the common size; his voice was strong, sonorous and clear; and his countenance so uncommon and remarkable, that it is in vain to attempt its description, yet it can never be forgotten by such as knew him well. During the whole of his long and active public life, although constantly thrown among gay and fashionable society, he adhered strictly to the manners and customs and fashions of his youth. In speaking, he used the old mode of pronunciation, without regard to Walker's Dictionary; and in writing, employed the same number of capital letters as were used in the days of Addison and Pope. The cut of his coat was the same for fifty years; and he constantly wore short breeches with kneebuckles and long fair-top boots to correspond. . . . "

Although he had maintained a home of his own from early manhood, its location is not clearly indicated prior to his purchase, about 1799, of a property called "Somerville", near Smyrna, upon which he lived until he succeeded to "Eden Hill" after his stepmother's death in 1810. When he bought "Somerville", he was a bachelor and so remained until the spring of 1806. The marriage which then began, near the close of his forty-fourth year, became the dominant personal factor in his remaining twenty-four years of life. His letter of April 12, 1806 to Ann (Moore) Ridgely gives a further insight:

"Hon'd Madam,

I intend, shortly, to marry Mary Brereton. This I think will promote my domestic Felicity, and contribute to my Comfort. In every Family, especially in one so large as mine, no Person but a Mistress can exercise that Degree of Authority which is absolutely necessary for its Government; and besides, the proper Management of my Affairs, both within Doors and without, in my long Absences from Home, every half Year, requires all the Weight and Influence which I can transfer to another.



PORTRAIT OF CHANCELLOR NICHOLAS RIDGELY BY THE REV. ROBERT
PIGGOTT, APRIL 1830

I make choice of M. B. because she is industrious, careful and skillful in every domestic Oeconmy, and is a perfectly good housewife; and because her Habits and Disposition entirely suit my own.

I ardently wish, in a Matter of this Kind, to have the Concurrence of my Friends; but should I not, I can only say, I shall have preferred my own Happiness to that Approbation which would increase it but which could not confer it.

This Letter is written in Confidence that it will not be communicated beyond your own Family and that they will be perfectly silent respecting it.

I am Madam

Yours affectionately

Nicholas Ridgely."

The disapproval he plainly expected is explained by the fact that Miss Brereton had been his housekeeper for a considerable time previous to their marriage. The tone of every message between Nicholas and Mary (Brereton) Ridgely so far discovered implies, however, that the practical considerations so strongly urged in this letter in favor of the step he contemplated were in his own mind a very minor matter indeed. The earliest letter we have between the Chancellor and his wife states in part:

"New Castle, 26 Aug., 1806

Wednesday 10 Oclock at Night

My dear Love,

I have just left the Court, eaten my Supper, and come into my Room to go to Bed; but the Moment I sat down I took your Letter from my Pocket to give it a third reading. I heartily thank you for it; it is particularly pleasing to me because it assures me of your Health and of the Health of the Family, except your Eyes. Without Spectacles you may remove the Inflammation. Sew less, use cold Water, & spare your Eyes and they will soon get well.

I think I can hardly indulge you with Spectacles. What, Spectacles in three Months after Marriage! O my Love, if you have got so old, so soon, what will you be in three

Years? I kiss you, and bid you adieu for tonight—in the Morning I will finish my Letter.

. . . I begin to fear that I shall not finish the Business at this place this week; . . . however, I shall use all reasonable diligence and try to be with you as soon as possible, for really my Love, I have not half the pleasure at any other place that I have at Home. My heart is wrapped up in you and of course my pleasure, my delight, my happiness is with you. . . . ”

The deleted portions of this letter deal with management of their farm and with some books he had ordered for William Boyer, a small boy the couple had taken into their family to raise.

A dozen years later, in August, 1818, another letter bewailed a misunderstanding that turned his beloved wife back from visiting him after he had been taken suddenly ill away from home and after she had already completed the more tiring part of the journey to his side. A portion is quoted for the light it throws upon another facet of the Chancellor's personality:

“ . . . I arrived at Smyrna, about 6 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon very well. When I went to Bed, about 10, I perceived a very powerful Perfume in the Room, like a large collection of very highly scented washballs. I hunted but could not perceive from whence the scent came. I heard Ann Wakeman below and called her up. She came, and informed me the clothes had been laid in a Drawer among Rose Leaves. I told her I could not bear it. She said if the Window were hoisted for a few Minutes the Scent would soon be gone. She went down and I had not sense enough to have the Sheets taken off and others put on; but I hoisted the window and went to work fanning the Clothes and at last shut the window down and went to bed. I lay there and tossed and tumbled till past 12 o'clock, then I took the Sheets and Pillow Case off the Bed, and lay on the bed [without them] with an additional counterpane which I got from another Bed; then I was disturbed by the yelping of a Foist, which I suppose was shut up in the house. At last I got a broken, disturbed Sleep for 3 Hours, or 3½ Hours . . . ”

In the morning, he continued, he pressed on toward New Castle but at the Red Lion Inn became violently ill from the effects of his uneasy night. It was then that his wife, and his brother Henry as well, were sent for.

The latest communication between Nicholas Ridgely and his wife that has been preserved, written in 1827, is a tender love letter. It is reminiscent in mood, recalling the "Rapture and Delight", the deep and rewarding friendship that had enriched their life together.

No children were born of this marriage, for both partners were already middle-aged when it was contracted. Both of them, however, were deeply attached to several of Mr. Ridgely's nieces and nephews. Throughout his lifetime the Chancellor and his half-brother Henry maintained close ties, while for his sister-in-law Sally (Banning) Ridgely, he showed a protective fondness. Letters to intimates outside the family, too, especially Governor Daniel Rodney, add further examples of the warm friendship and deep sentiment of which this usually austere, inarticulate man was capable. In much the same strain are family stories that tell of his pleasure in sketching and in playing his fiddle.

The main body of Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely's papers was destroyed after his death, according to the statement of his niece, Mrs. Charles I. duPont. The sixty-one chance survivals abstracted in this chapter do, however, suggest what the general character of his extensive correspondence must have been. Much of it refers to his legal practice and is sometimes routine, sometimes concerned with important issues or prominent individuals. The personal portion consists of letter from or about his brothers and sisters, to and from his intimates, and to his wife. Of this group ten are particularly revealing: the four from Chancellor Ridgely to Daniel Rodney already referred to, photostats of which Judge Richard S. Rodney added to the collection presented to the Archives by Ridgely descendants; and the six from the Chancellor to his "dearest Love" between 1806 and 1827.

A scattered correspondence with Ann (Moore) Ridgely, one item of it a note announcing his intended marriage to Mary Brereton, appears in Chapter III. One letter to Abraham Ridgely, important for the political and biographical data it

presents, opens Chapter V. Henry M. Ridgely's correspondence for the years 1825-1830 includes a few entries from Nicholas Ridgely concerning public and family affairs; so does also the correspondence of Henry M. Ridgely's children.

Chancellor Ridgely's personal papers belonging to this collection but omitted from the calendar are twenty-seven in number. One, probably a rough draft of a letter asking medical advice, gives a careful case history of the heart condition which in 1827 had long been troubling him, and outlines his temperate living habits and usual routine. There are a few personal bills and some fragmentary legal notes. The majority of the papers, however, are bonds, deeds, wills, accounts, and testimony, in full or abbreviated form, that concern cases coming to his attention. The only known portrait of Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely is a small watercolor by the clergyman-artist Robert Piggott, now in the Ridgely house on Dover Green.

ABSTRACTS

[NICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [Dover], from W[ILLIAM] HILL WELLS, [Dagsborough, Del.], April 24, 1792.

Discusses a suit against George Mitchell. Asks Mr. Ridgely to forward the enclosed letters to Mr. [Richard] Bassett and Mr. [Joseph] Miller if he approves them, and to see that the Mitchell's suit for their legacies is not settled before "the organization of the new Constitution."

A. L. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 33.5cm. [2 enclosures, see entries below].

JOSEPH MILLER, Esq., Dover, from W[ILLIAM] HILL WELLS, Dags' Borough [Del.], April 23, 1792.

Encloses a note for twelve pounds, the final installment due for services as counsel in a suit against George Mitchell.

A. L. S., 1 p., 16.7cm. x 20.3cm. [Enclosed with letter to Nicholas Ridgely].

RICHARD BASSETT, Dover, from W[ILLIAM] HILL WELLS, Dagsborough, [Del.], April 23, 1791 [1792].

Explains certain circumstances of his suit against George Mitchell over the administration of General [John] Dagworthy's estate, and his reason for offering unusual conditions of payment.

A. L. S., 2 pp., 20cm. x 33.5cm. [Enclosed with letter to Nicholas Ridgely].

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], from ROBERT CLARK, Dover, Nov. 19, 1792.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to attend to a judgement for Abraham Pierce entered at New Castle Court, since he himself cannot attend.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 32.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], from [GOV.] J[OSHUA] CLAYTON, [Dover], Feb. 17, 1793.

Discusses the date for summoning the Legislature, inferring there has been a request for some change now impossible to arrange because bad weather will prevent due notice to the members. Agrees with Mr. Ridgely that "the business" should be postponed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 20.6cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JONA[THAN] HUNN, [Kent County, Del., post Feb. 22, 1793].

States the circumstances under which the Milford property of Thomas Blades Wildgoos was sold, with intent, he believes, to defraud Hunn's father's estate. Wishes an ejectment action started. Mentions [Mr.] Oliver and Mr. Pettygrove.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.9cm. x 26cm.

DANIEL RODNEY, Lewes, [Del.], from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 22, 1793.

Asks Mr. Rodney's assistance in collecting from the Sussex County Treasurer the allowances granted him for two years past by the Levy Court. Encloses a letter to Mr. Little, and a draft, to facilitate collection. Suspects "the money is not still in the pockets of the people."

A. L. S., 1 p., 17.5cm. x 21cm. (Photostat copy of original owned by Hon. Richard S. Rodney, New Castle, Del.).

THOMAS MONTGOMERY, Esq., Auditor of Accounts, [State of Delaware], c/o SOLOMON MAXWELL, Christiana Bridge, [Del.], from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 16, 1793.

Explains why it is preferable to enter the suit regarding the State Treasurer's bond in the Supreme Court rather than in the Court of Common Pleas. Gives his opinion on other technical details of the action. Expects Mr. Montgomery to bring about a great improvement in the State's financial management.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17.5cm. x 21cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS SIPPLE, [Kent County, Del.], May 16, 1794.

Reminds Mr. Ridgely to obtain the depositions of Joseph Godwin and Sarah Jones, aged material witnesses "in Seasars case."

A. N. S. 1 p. 18.5cm. x 11.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from MARMADUKE TILDEN, JR., [n. p.], Mar. 3, 1795.

Inventories certain property "Delivered By Mr. Joshua Dudley to me on Acc[oun]t of Mr. Lorain," who has also written to Mr. Ridgely on the subject.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 17.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIA]M HILL WELLS, Dagsborough, [Del.], May 30, 1795.

Empowers Mr. Ridgely to pay Thomas Caldwell the sum to be collected on Winlock Clark's bond, his receipt to "be good against Wells & Tunnell." He is to retain as his fee the interest due.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 23.8cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from WILLIAM SMITH, Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 1796.

Explains that the enclosed memorial is presented because "Some restless men in Wilmington, not of the same political Creed with most of the present Trustees of the School . . . wish to get the Seminary & Building which has cost us so much Money & Trouble into their own Hands" Inquires what the legislature will do about establishing schools, whether the papers "respecting the Revival of the Law for selling the Wilmington Lottery" are in order, and what the Trustees resident in Wilmington have done. Saw [George and Henry Ridgely] recently, and believes they are doing well at school.

A. L. S., 2 pp., 18cm. x 25cm. [1 enclosure, see entry below].

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover, petition to be presented to the Legislature in behalf of] WILLIAM SMITH, MIERS FISHER, W[ILLIA]M WHITE, NICHOLAS WAY, SAM[UE]L MAGAW and THO[MAS] MIFFLIN, [all of Philadelphia], Jan. 9, 1795 [1796].

The petitioners, "original founders and Trustees" of Wilmington Academy resident in Philadelphia, outline the history of the school and ask a meeting of the Trustees to reorganize it sufficiently to make it "an immediate object of Legislative protection and encouragement." Refers to the legislature's inten-

tion "to found or endow" sufficient schools "for the common Instruction of Youth" and at least one advanced school in each County.

D. S., 3 pp., 21cm. x 25.5cm. [Enclosed with letter from Dr. William Smith].

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from SAM[UE]L and J[OHN] ADAMS, Wilmington, Feb. 1, 1796.

[The printers] thank Mr. Ridgely "for the favors rec[eive]d" and ask his assistance in having payment speedily made and placed in their hands.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 21cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from KENSEY JOHNS, New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 20, 1796.

Hopes the [originally] enclosed papers will provide the information needed. Mentions circumstances in connection with Garnet & Ash's purchase of "Manlove's Place," and further steps needed to clear their title.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21.5cm. x 35cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JACOB STOUT, Fast Landing, [Del.], July 29, 1796.

Asks a judgement on a "replevin Bond of Geo[rge] Kirkley transferred to me by Benjamin Stout."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 17cm.

NICH[OLA]S RIDGELY, [Dover], from JOHN EMORY, [Kent County, Del.], Mar. 13, 1797.

Negro Joseph "intends to sue the men that took him." Gives some of the circumstances of the alleged kidnapping. Complains on his own account that a vicious horse of his that the Negro was riding was turned loose on the highway and a new hatchet was stolen.

A. N. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 17cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN CLARK, Constable, Lewises [sic] Cross Roads, [Del.], April 2, 1797.

Suggests John Ford as an important witness for Mr. Ridgely to summon if "you have undertook to Befreind Negro Will in behalf of his freedom."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.9cm. x 22.4cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from ANDREW TYBOUT, Philadelphia, Oct. 28, 1797.

Wishes Abraham Carty of Duck Creek Hundred sued for his share of a bond due John Jones from the estate of Jonathan Raymond. Mentions Mrs. Carty (daughter of John Raymond), Cantwell Jones, John Allston of New Castle County, and James Raymond, Esq.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 32.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from GIDEON HILL WELLS and RICHARD HILL MORRIS, Philad[elphi]a, April 4, 1798.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to commence a suit against Levi Burt, "near Campden," for payment of an account. Suggests that notice of intention to sue may bring payment.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES HENRY, Duck Creek X [Cross] Roads, [Del.], April 18, 1798.

Asks that the proceedings he instituted against Thomas Stewart, overseer for George Cummins, be stayed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 17.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from EBEN[EZE]R BLACKISTON, Duck Creek, [Del.], April 19, 1798.

Sister Frances Blackiston "wishes you would . . . proceed against James Berry for her Dividend of her Father's Estate."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 14.3cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN DARRACH, [n. p., post Aug. 2, 1798].

Requests advice about his liability for a certain debt. Names Andrew Naudain, . . . Hollingsworth, E. Naudain, Rob[er]t Maxwell and Hollingsworth & Moulton as the other parties concerned.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 33cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIA]M HILL WELLS, Dagsb[orough, Del.], Mar. 7, 1799.

Fears he has delivered to [Henry] Ridgely, along with a watch and letters for Mrs. Ridgely, a small package not intended for her.

A. L. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 25cm. [Inside page contains draught of a note of explanation and apology, in Mrs. Ridgely's hand. Abstract of this note filed under Mrs. Ann Ridgely, c. Mar. 8, 1799].

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from BROOM, LITTLER & CO., Phila[delphia], April 29, 1799.

Places an account against "Morris and Dixon, late Merchants of Wheatlesbourg" in Mr. Ridgely's hands for collection. Also discusses business involving Dickerson Morris, Thomas Duning, Mr. . . . Moleston and "Morris and his father."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 32cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JOSEPH TATNALL, Dover, April 30, 1799.

Has ordered a writ placed in the Sheriff's hands for the sale of "Boyer's property," which he plans to "bid . . . up to the debt." Wishes Mr. Ridgely's assistance. Also directs him, at the request of his daughter, Ann Sipple, to proceed against five delinquent Tax Collectors so the executors of Tho[mas] Sipple may receive "a full Discharge."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from J. DAVIDSON, Philadelphia, May 30, 1799.

Describes a business transaction involving Jacob Stout, Henry O'Niel, Gilbert Simmons, William Frazer, W. Van Stevern, Rothwell & Rasin of Duck Creek Cross Roads, Whelan and Miller, and Mr. Jos[eph] I. Miller. Asks Mr. Ridgely to take appropriate action.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 31.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, State's Attorney, Dover, from JAMES IDDINGS, Duck Creek X [Cross] Roads, [Del., June] 21, [17]99.

Asks if action previously discussed cannot be taken against . . . Ratcliff for selling several Negroes entitled to freedom and for forcibly seizing one of them after an escape. Hopes to frighten the man into surrendering "those Blacks" for he is certain they have not yet been disposed of.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from PURNEL LOFLAND, Milford, [Del.], July 26, 1799.

Sends three bonds he wishes entered and returned. Also asks Mr. Ridgely to attend to the settlement of certain business previously in the hands of the late Joseph Miller.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21.8cm. x 28.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from WILLIAM PEERY, Sussex [County], Aug. 1, 1799.

Outlines the issues in Robert Houston's appeal from the Board of Property for Sussex, and the case of . . . Lofland and . . . Bloxham before the Court of Appeals. The latter concerns a colonial land title involving registrations in the Land Office in Philadelphia, alleged bribery of the surveyor William Shankland, and conflicting claims of William Lofland and Thomas Wharton. Mentions Mr. . . . Physick.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 34cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES HENRY, Duck Creek X [Cross] Roads, [Del.], Sept. 24, [17]99.

Is sending data relating to a case in which Jos[eph] Fisher, William Rogers, deceased, and his widow Millicent Rogers, and the estate of . . . Hanson, deceased, are involved.

A. N. S. 1 p. 16.3cm. x 20cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] AB[RAHA]M RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 8, 1800.

Governor [Richard Bassett] wishes suits instituted immediately against the Sheriffs of New Castle and Sussex Counties "for not making return according to Law."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 20cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from ROBERT HILFORD, [n. p.], April 4, 1800.

Describes a farm belonging to Elizabeth Clark, widow of John. Asks if "the information is sufficient to proceed or not."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.7cm. x 30.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from WILLIAM NOLAN, [n. p.], April 9, 1800.

Authorizes Mr. Ridgely to proceed in the matter of the land belonging to Bolitha Glass, deceased, and his wife Mary.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 34.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES KENT, Centre Ville, Queen Ann's Co., Md., April 19, 1800.

Wishes execution of a judgement obtained in Maryland against William Pearce, now of Dover.

A. L. S. 1 p. 22cm. x 29.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], from SOLOMON DAWSON, Duck Creek, [Del., Nov.] 18, 1801.

Is willing to settle the case between himself and Mr. [John] McWhorter amicably if it will be safe to do so.

A. N. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, "Somerville," c/o DR. ABRAHAM RIDGELY, Smyrna, Del., from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., Aug. 26, 1806.

Sends his wife directions for the management of their farm during his absence. Fears the work of the Court will keep him from his beloved home beyond the current week. Has purchased books for William [Boyer]. Suggests remedies for Mrs. Ridgely's eyes, then teases her affectionately: "I think I cannot indulge you with Spectacles. What, Spectacles in three Months after Marriage! O my Love, if you have got so old, so soon, what will you be in three Years? I kiss you, and bid you adieu for tonight."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.7cm.

[HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, "Somerville," [Del.], from [DR.] W[ILLIAM] W. MORRIS, [Dover], April 22, [1808].

Announces [the death of Williamina Ridgely] "yesterday evening." The family wishes him and his wife to "come down immediately."

A. N. S., 1 p., 18.5cm. x 14.6cm. [fragment].

[HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from WILLIAM CARPENTER, Red Lion Hd., [Del.], May 25, 1808.

Seeks to be released as administrator of his wife's nephew William Jarrard, deceased, late of Kent County. Outlines the condition of the estate, which he has not attempted to settle. Mentions the decedent's grandfather "Old Mr. Roads," his father James Jarrard, his uncle Matthew Jarrard and an aunt unnamed.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, near Dover, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Mar. 7, 1811.

Has just received a letter from [Henry M. Ridgely] saying that their brother Dr. [Abraham Ridgely] was dying. Though the news was expected, he had still hoped for his recovery. Wishes to return at once, but several previous delays at court in New Castle make it his "public Duty" to continue the session.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.8cm.

HON. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from KENSEY JOHNS, New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 11, 1813.

The recent "law altering the Time of holding Courts," adopted without consultation with bench and bar, will entail several inconveniences for New Castle County residents. He himself cannot use "the public Stages" under the new plan and must have his horses "kept in a hot stable at Dover" during the Court of Appeals. Mentions Judge [James] Booth, [Sr.].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.3cm.

DANIEL RODNEY, Esq., Governor of Delaware, Lewes, [Del.], from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, June 30, 1815.

Recommends Mr. [John W.] Many to succeed John Boyer as Recorder of Deeds in Kent County. Has written three times to Mr. Rodney and received no reply. Inquires if he has in any way offended him, or if his failure to write has been negligent only. Is unwilling to let a valued friendship be destroyed without some effort to clear up any misunderstanding that may have occurred.

A. L. S., 2 pp., 20.5cm. x 24.6cm. (Photostat copy of the original owned by Hon. Richard S. Rodney, New Castle, Del.).

DANIEL RODNEY, Esq., Governor of Delaware, Lewes, [Del.], from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 9, 1815.

Has just read of [Napoleon] Buonaparte's crushing defeat by Wellington, and his reported imprisonment by the people of Paris. Wellington's victory was extremely costly, especially in higher officers. Mr. [James A.] Bayard died last Sunday from a breast bone infection resulting from "a badly treated inflammatory sore Throat" suffered on shipboard. Gives considerable detail about his treatment. Judges and the Bar will wear mourning. Mrs. [Nicholas] Ridgely was ill after their return from Lewes. Refunds fifty cents his friend had paid for shoeing the Chancellor's horse.

A. L. S., 2pp., 20.5cm. x 24.6cm. (Photostat copy of the original owned by Hon. Richard S. Rodney, New Castle, Del.).

[HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIA]M HILL WELLS, Dagsborough, [Del.], July 4, 1816.

Sends a petition of William Lockwood for partition of lands held "in common with Col. Long and others." Fears action cannot be instituted, "the legal estate remaining in the heirs of George Mitchell," but explains the circumstances and asks for the summons if it can be issued.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., Aug. 23, 1818.

Is greatly distressed because a message to his wife, sent only to relieve her worry after she had been sent for to come to his bedside, at the Red Lion Inn, was so garbled in delivery she turned back when only ten miles from him. Tells, in full detail, about an illness brought on by sleeping between sheets that had been laid away in rose leaves. He is much improved but still weak, and disappointed at not seeing his beloved wife. His brother Henry came, and was extremely attentive. Is unable to attend to "William's business" yet, but will do so before leaving. Wishes a full report on Mrs. Ridgely's trip.

A. L. S., 3 pp., 19.6cm. x 32.5cm. [A note signed A. R. du Pont identifies William as William Boyer, "a child of a poor woman Uncle R[idgely] adopted & settled in life."]

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., Sept. 1, 1819.

Is impatient to reach home, and hopes to leave by Friday. Wishes the carriage sent up, with the strap for fastening the largest trunk on behind. The case of Mme. Bureaux de Pusey vs. Mr. [E. I.] du Pont is the only important one unfinished. Mentions Mr. [Gabriel] Denizot.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.8cm. x 20cm.

CHANCELLOR NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [n. p.], from DAVID HAZZARD, Milton, Del., Nov. 26, 1819.

Asks advice in the name of the Commissioners appointed to divide lands under a decree of the Court of Chancery, since Arthur Milby claims ownership of a property they were directed to divide between John Tufts and Wesley Budd. Apologizes for the delay in carrying out their commission, but they have no precedent to help them decide what is "legal and just" in this confused situation.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.7cm. x 20.6cm.

CHANCELLOR HENRY M. [sic] RIDGELY, Dover, from W. B. WOLFE, 112 N. 6th St., Philad[elphi]a, Jan. 22, 1821.

States in specific detail the negotiations he has conducted with Charlotte Spry and her husband Christopher Spry, of "Head of Christ[ian]a in Maryland" in relation to the estate of J[ohn] Wolfe, deceased. Asks advice about further procedure. Mentions his mother, Mary Wolfe, widow of William Wolfe of Sussex County; G. Garretson and James Britton, Jr.

A. L. S., 2 pp., 19.5cm. x 25cm. [The handwriting of an endorsement indicates that the letter is part of Nicholas Ridgely's correspondence].

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Sept. 2, 1821.

Fears his wife is ill. Hopes the court can be adjourned by Tuesday but insists on being notified if Mrs. Ridgely needs him before then. Plans to hear Francis Lata preach in the Presbyterian Church. "Religion and the Church is the perpetual theme of discourse" in New Castle; suspects, however, that the residents tend more to "Publick Worship" than to truly religious lives. Adds a comment after his return that Mr. Lata's sermon had "given me a better opinion of the old Gentleman than I had before." Pities William Rogers, who has wasted his inheritance and has no vocational training whatever. Mentions Henry and Charles G. Ridgely, a steamboat trip to Pea Patch [Island] the lawyers at New Castle have taken, a gift, some hard-to-find apron tape for Mrs. Ridgely, and the marriage of [Mr.] . . . Bingham to Miss . . . Dawson.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

[HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], from HENRY H. WELLS, [n. p.], July 8, 1923.

Suggests eight legal citations which "may save you a little trouble."

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 14cm.

DANIEL RODNEY, Esq., Lewes, [Del.], from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 8, 1823.

Was shocked to hear of the death of Mr. Rodney's young daughter [Hannah], the wife of Dr. [John] White. Offers sympathy and condolence. Asks that certain trinkets of his mother's, which he gave Mrs. White the last time he saw her, be given to her sister Susan [Rodney]. Also wishes Susan to accept, after his death, his mother's portrait willed to Mrs. White, but only if she "will keep it out of a Garrett." Had considered Mrs. White "my dearest female Friend, who was likely to survive me, and to leave Children." Court and private business prevent his visiting Lewes until later. "Now that my Brother [Henry] has gone from Dover" he does not know who would entertain Mr. . . . Williston, who is to preach, and Mr. . . . Beddell, of Philadelphia, if he were out of town.

A. L. S., 3 pp., 20.3cm. x 24.5cm. (Photostat copy of the original owned by Hon. Richard S. Rodney, New Castle, Del.).

NICHOLAS VAN DYKE, Esq., U. S. Senate, Washington, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 17, 1824.

Thanks the Senator for obtaining the *National Calendar* and paying certain accounts for him. Asks him to have missing issues of Mr. Dunn's *Theological Repertory* mailed, and to submit to

the magazine, for possible publication, a Genealogical Table of Herod the Great's family until the destruction of Jerusalem, which Mr. Ridgely recently compiled. Explains the reason for his work and some of the difficulties encountered. Wishes his manuscript returned if it is rejected.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

CHANCELLOR NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [n. p.], from JOHN M. CLAYTON, [n. p.], Nov. 14, 1824.

Supplies information he believes will permit prompt division of land among Mrs. . . . Scotton, the minor heirs James and William [Scotton] and others unnamed. Mentions Emory Baily, guardian of the minors. Asks a ruling on the matter.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., April 12, 1825.

William Boyer is to be married in two weeks. Discusses arrangements for Mrs. Ridgely's trip to the wedding. Gives directions for the farm work to be accomplished in their absence and asks his brother Henry to "ride over to our house every day or two." Reminds his wife to bring material to mend "the Seat of my black Clothe Breeches." The Presbyterians have called Mr. . . . Danforth, "a Yankee," to their pulpit at the insistence of the women of the congregation. Mentions [nephew] Henry [Ridgely] and "Miss Sally" . . .

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from KENSEY JOHNS, JR., New Castle, Oct. 8, 1825.

His father [Kensey Johns, Sr.] is bringing the Chancellor the papers concerning a suit of Mary Cox and M. Darragh vs. John Wales, "with a rough sketch of a decree." Calls attention to various pertinent facts.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

[HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from KENDAL BATSON, Lewes Town, Del., Dec. 3, 1825.

In behalf of his daughter, Maria W. Howard, guardian of the three minor heirs of Robert H. Howard, he asks if it will be proper to work timber blown down on the children's land and account to them for the proceeds.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.9cm. x 20.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., [n. p.], from C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, Dover, Mar. 18, 1826.

Answers an inquiry about routes of the new and old road through a certain property, the damages assessed, and the probable title to the abandoned section. Mentions Mrs. Sarah Cowgill, E. Cowgill, and Samuel Price; also refers to White Oak Swamp and a Negro Schoolhouse near it.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HON. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Judge of the Orphans' Court, New Castle, [Del.], from W[ILLIAM] H. CRAWFORD, [n. p.], July 15, 1826.

Appeals for a hearing on his protest of the settlement of Dr. Benja[min] Merritt's estate, stating the circumstances he believes justify it. Mentions Mr. [John] Merritt, his [own] wife (née Sarah Merritt), and Maria A. Merritt.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from J. H. BLACK, New Castle, [Del.], Oct. 16, 1826.

Asks Court approval for delaying the sale of certain farm equipment of John Crow's estate. The widow and minor heirs will profit by its continued use by the tenant, Thomas Booth. Also inquires about "the Trust Deed in the case of Mr. Newbold" and the papers in the case of the Bank of W[ilmington] and B[rand]ywine vs. Reading.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from J. H. BLACK, New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 30, 1827.

Advises Mr. Ridgely of an application to be made before him February 7 to dissolve an injunction granted in the case of Clement et al vs. Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., Mar. 4, 1827.

Does not completely approve the school at Newark, but in view of the "Manners and Morals of the Place" and the fact Mrs. [William] Boyer will care for the child if he goes there, he has decided to send his nephew Henry [Ridgely], beginning the May term, unless his father objects. Is not satisfied that Charles [Ridgely] has fully determined to reform. Disapproves his recent trip to a Ball at St. Georges, in the rain and after eight o'clock at night, and his staying away for two nights. Charles

has been otherwise indiscrete. Tells of the usual round of church-going, visiting and parties at New Castle, with several terrapin suppers in addition. Fears the Canal case will keep him away beyond Friday. Writes of Mr. . . . Connelley, a newly ordained Episcopal clergyman, also of Mr. . . . Black, Mr. [Jacob] Colesberry, Mr. . . . Janvier and Mr. & Mrs. . . . Rogers.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from E. D. CULLEN, Geo[rge] Town, [Del.], May 8, 1827.

Asks the Chancellor to appoint a guardian *ad litem* for Sarah James, a minor child of Zadock James, deceased, so that the partition of her father's land, which all the heirs approve, may be made in proper form. Suggests Peter Calhoun, John Burbage, Jonathan Calhoun, John Ponder, David Hazzard, John Star, Eli Hall and Cornelius Coulter as suitable guardians, but any resident of Milton or Georgetown whom the Chancellor names will be satisfactory. Zadock James' children now of age are his daughters Leah, wife of Somerset Dickerson; Elizabeth Oliver, a widow; Mary, wife of Levin P. Donovan; and a son William James.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 21cm.

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from [HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, George Town, Del., Aug. 12-13, 1827.

Opens with a tender expression of his continued love and an appreciation of their happy life together. Henry F. Rodney's appointment as Inspector of the Port at Lewes has been very unpopular and made many converts to Jackson. Kendal Batson has been confirmed as Keeper of the Lighthouses. Speaks of the intolerable heat and dust, of rain along the coast but not inland, and of the dearth of watermelons and peaches. Has seen Caleb Rodney, old Mrs. Kollock and her son James, and Mr. . . . Stockley. Mentions Mr. Higbee and wife, and Mr. . . . Prettyman.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

HON. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JEHU STOCKLEY, Geo[rge] Town, [Del.], Feb. 11, 1828.

Explains the repairs made on a watch returned with the letter. Has been unable to complete the business regarding purchase of "United Stock" because of Mr. . . . Rodney's absence. Reports activity and confidence among Jackson supporters in [Sussex] County.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.8cm. x 21cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Chancellor, [n.p.], from JOHN M. CLAYTON, Dover, Mar. 13, 1828.

Inquires about a series of notes on law cases left by his deceased friend, Joshua Brinckle, which were put in the hands of the Chancellor, by direction of the bar, for examination. Understands that Judge [Willard] Hall, the other examiner, has approved them. Doubts that they will be published, but if they are, wishes the privilege of editing them since he took the actual notes in many instances and knows the original purpose of the series better than anyone else now living. Asks custody of the papers pending a decision about publication. If they are not to be printed, feels entitled to keep them. Quotes from a letter from his friend's father, Dr. John Brinckle.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[HON.] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from T[HOMAS] COOPER, Geo[rge] Town, [Del.], Aug. 14, 1828.

Suggests "adjournment of Court of Chancery and Orphans' Court to October" as there are no pressing matters before either, and the extreme heat has "unfit most persons for business." He is not well and hopes to leave soon for Saratoga, [N. Y.].

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 21cm.

HON. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from EDW[AR]D L. WELLS, George Town, Del., Nov. 12, 1829.

Announces the death and burial of Mr. [Thomas] Cooper. Discusses legal points involved in the distribution of the interstate estate of Joseph Tam, deceased, mentioning as interested parties James, Zachariah and Lemuel Tam; Stephen Tam of Ohio; Asa Conaway and wife Elizabeth, née Tam; Mary Tam; and John and Joseph Tam, sons of John Tam, deceased.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 31.5cm.

HON. N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, [n. p.], from KENSEY JOHNS, JR., Washington, Dec. 8, 1829.

A bill from Gales and Seaton has been receipted. Will attend to Mr. Ridgely's business at the Treasury Department. Asks further instructions.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HON. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from EDW[AR]D L. WELLS, George Town, [Del.], Dec. 30, 1829.

Sends a check as requested. Acknowledges receipt of the "forms you spoke of."

A. L. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 25cm. [Memo signed N. R. records forwarding of the check to Dr. James Couper, Cashier of the Farmers' Bank at New Castle].

HON. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES COUPER, New Castle, Del., Jan. 28, 1830.

Submits information regarding United States securities available for "the investment to be made . . . for the Orphans' Court of Sussex County" and asks further instructions before purchasing.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

HON. NICHOLAS RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., from HENRY M. SCHEE, Dover, Mar. 1, 1830.

Has just completed "the [Delaware] laws and Index" [Code, 1829], a copy of which he sends. Has planted peas. Supposes "the [New Castle-Frenchtown] railroad . . . is now all the Hobby" and that, when it is completed, "the inhabitants of New Castle will neither regard the Canal or Mr. Frost."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. MARY RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, [Baltimore, Md.], Sept. 18, 1834.

Tells of his safe arrival at Baltimore with Mr. . . . Emory who "came on to attend to his lottery office." Mr. Eccleston, a teacher at the College, has been ordained Bishop but will continue to hold classes in "Moral Philosophy, Political Economy & Elocution." Mr. Chanche and Mr. Hoskynns are now its president and vice-president. Sends regards to his family and "Miss Maria" . . .

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 25.3cm.



HENRY MOORE RIDGELY, WAX RELIEF PORTRAIT
MADE IN WASHINGTON, 1827

CHAPTER II

HENRY MOORE RIDGELY

1779

1847

Henry Moore Ridgely, eldest son of Dr. Charles G. Ridgely by his second wife, Ann Moore, was born August 6, 1779. With his younger brother George he was educated in Dover for admission in March, 1794, to New Ark Academy, Newark, Delaware, where he came under the instruction of Mr. William Thomson. In 1795 both boys followed their instructor to Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, from which Henry M. Ridgely was graduated in 1797. Shortly thereafter he entered the law office of his relative, Charles Smith of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, motivated in his choice of location, one suspects, at least in part, by a romantic interest in a Miss Elizabeth Wilson of Carlisle. Within a few months, however, he was withdrawn from Mr. Smith's office and became the student of his elder brother Nicholas Ridgely, in Dover. He was admitted in 1802 to the Delaware bar, before which he practiced during much of the remainder of his life.

In November, 1803 he married Sally Banning at the home of his bride's step-father, Dr. William McKee of Wilmington. The young wife, a girl not quite seventeen, is frequently described as having possessed both beauty and poise.

Henry M. Ridgely early became an active Federalist. In 1810 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives on that ticket, serving two terms but declining a third nomination. He was in office throughout the War of 1812. Though a bitter critic of President James Madison's Administration and a convinced supporter of his own party, he deplored the unpatriotic lengths to which some of its members carried their opposition. He himself was always careful to observe the formal courtesies due the President. Upon the expiration of his second Congressional term in 1815, he retired for some years to private law practice and his duties as President of the Farmers Bank of Delaware, an office to which he had been chosen when the Bank was established in 1807. In 1827 he accepted an appointment to the United States Senate to fill the

vacancy created by Senator Nicholas Van Dyke's death. He supported the candidacy of Andrew Jackson the following year, and in consequence failed of election to the Senate in his own right when Adams men won control of the Delaware Assembly in 1829. A letter in the collection indicates that he declined an important but unidentified Federal office under President Jackson. Although he was one of those who soon differed sharply with the Jackson Administration, he remained a Democrat the remainder of his life. Within his own State he was a member of the Legislature and of the Levy Court, Register of Wills, and Secretary of State. He declined appointment as Chancellor to succeed his brother Nicholas, and is said to have declined nomination or appointment to other State offices.

Several years after the death of his wife Sally (Banning) Ridgely on January 14, 1837, Mr. Ridgely remarried, choosing Sally Ann Comegys, a daughter of Governor Cornelius P. Comegys, his friend and a colleague in the Farmers Bank. She was younger than her husband's eldest son, and outlived her mate by almost forty years.

In March of 1846 Henry M. Ridgely suffered a paralytic stroke from which he recovered only partially, and from complications of which he died at his home on Dover Green August 6, 1847, his sixty-eighth birthday.

All of Senator Ridgely's fifteen children were born of his marriage to Sally Banning; the eldest, Charles George, in 1804, the youngest, Edward, in 1831. He was survived by Ann (Mrs. Charles I. duPont), Henry, Nicholas, Eugene, Williamina (Mrs. Alexander Johnson), and Edward. Charles George had died in 1844; a daughter Elizabeth, in early womanhood; and seven other children, in infancy. Of these Nicholas, John, Abraham and Williamina, all of whom were born and died between 1806 and 1812, are in one manner or another alluded to in family correspondence.

His first wife, Sarah Banning, was born February 18, 1787, the daughter of John Banning, a prosperous Dover merchant, and his wife Elizabeth (Alford). Just before she was four years old her father died, leaving her and an infant brother, John A. Banning, as the principal heirs to his estate, a large one for the time. While she was still a small child her mother

married Dr. William McKee, and of this marriage there were several additional children, of whom two, Elizabeth and Mary McKee, lived to maturity.

In Sally Banning's childhood the family home was in Kent County, at some periods in Dover and at others in Camden; but she spent much of her time away at school, at first under the care of a Susan Hanson at an address unknown, later at a school in Wilmington, apparently Wilmington Academy, and still later at Mrs. Capron's School in Philadelphia. While no contemporary details about her education have been preserved, it is evident from the correspondence that she acquired a taste for serious reading, learned a little French and to play the piano, and had instruction in drawing and painting as evidenced by "A Reward of Merit" received for a water-color. A pretty, well-mannered little girl, she grew into a vivacious, attractive young lady with a wide circle of friends, both in Kent County and in Wilmington, where her family had moved at about the time she finished school.

In the summer of 1802 Henry M. Ridgely first courted the lovely girl, then but fifteen years old. Although the couple were engaged by September, Sally was reluctant to assume the cares and responsibilities of a family, and repeatedly postponed the wedding date until November, 1803.

From that time her life was identified completely with home and family. Her eldest child, Charles George Ridgely, was born when she was only seventeen; and the youngest, Edward, when she was but a few days less than forty-four. During the intervening years there were few periods when the household did not include a baby less than two years old and from one to five other sons and daughters at home. Their care, education and guidance brought Mrs. Ridgely overflowing measures of both joy and sorrow. Supervision of the housekeeping was at all times a demanding occupation; and, during the six years her husband served as a member of the United States Congress, an unusually heavy responsibility. In addition to the usual routine of the home, the letters record several illnesses from which Mrs. Ridgely herself suffered; seven of the fourteen children born alive died in their mother's lifetime; and there were many other illnesses within the family that did not end fatally. It is consequently difficult to see how Mrs. Ridgely found

a moment for relaxation. The letters none the less make it evident that she escaped being the personal cipher that the mother and managing housekeeper of so large a family might so easily have become. She and her husband enjoyed a warm intellectual companionship to the end of her life. She maintained girlhood friendships and formed new associations as opportunity offered. While she had lost her taste for formal social functions by the time her husband was a Senator, she had long found them stimulating. Throughout their lives Mr. Ridgely took especial pride in her appearance and bearing in distinguished gatherings. She had a talent for gardening, loved pets, and was long remembered for her thoughtful kindness to both intimates and those who crossed her path only casually.

The later years of her life were scarred with worry over Charles George's instability and Elizabeth's headstrongness, then by the prolonged illness and final death, on the verge of womanhood, of this particularly beloved daughter. They were troubled, too, by the rapid failure of her vision, which from girlhood had been imperfect at dusk or by candlelight as the result of a rare structural peculiarity medically known as retinitis pigmentosa. Several of Mrs. Ridgely's younger children and a few of her grandchildren inherited this visual defect.

Although she had been for a considerable time in sufficiently poor health to worry her medical-student son, her actual death came suddenly after a very brief illness, on January 14, 1837, a month before her fiftieth birthday.

The correspondence of Henry M. Ridgely and his wife Sally Banning, comprising 618 abstracts, forms the largest single unit in this *Calendar*. It does not, however, involve as large a group of related individuals as was true in the case of Mr. Ridgely's mother. None the less, a few genealogical notes may prove useful in interpreting some of the letters.

Of the Ridgely family, Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely and his wife, mentioned in the correspondence as Uncle and Aunt Ridgely, have had sufficient introduction already. The letters of this period also include brief allusions to the Chancellor's younger brother, Dr. Abraham Ridgely, who died in 1811; the doctor's daughter, Mary Wynkoop Ridgely, who died in 1809; and his unhappy, difficult widow who survived them both.

Henry M. Ridgely's full brother George, lost at sea in 1800, is also mentioned but briefly. His sisters Ann and Williamina, who died in 1805 and 1808 respectively, are minor figures in the present chapter. His sister Mary, who in 1807 became the wife of Dr. William Winder Morris, was destined to outlive him. Although at certain periods there was estrangement between the two families, she and her children remained neighbors, usually friendly ones, of Henry M. Ridgely, his wife and children. A son William Morris and daughters Anna Maria, Emily and Isabella, the last a short-lived infant, are mentioned in this or succeeding chapters. Mary (Ridgely) Morris was referred to as Aunt Morris by her nephews and nieces.

Among Sally Banning's relatives, her mother and stepfather Dr. and Mrs. William McKee, her full brother John Banning, and two half-sisters Elizabeth and Mary McKee are the most frequently represented in these letters. This brother settled near Wilmington after his marriage. One of his large family was young Nicholas Ridgely's correspondent, Elizabeth Banning. Elizabeth McKee, familiarly called Betsey or Aunt Wright, first married John Davis, with whom she established a home in Wilmington, and after his death became the wife of William Wright, a merchant of Philadelphia. There were children by each marriage, but Elizabeth and Helen Davis, near the ages of Elizabeth and Ann Ridgely, are the only ones who assume real importance in the Ridgely chronicle. Within the period covered by this volume, Elizabeth Davis married Edward Gillilan, then of New York. Mary McKee, whom Sally's children generally called Aunt Mary or occasionally Aunt Hillyard, became the wife of John S. Hillyard. She and her husband with their children, none of them prominent figures in the *Calendar*, lived in the Dover neighborhood during at least a considerable part of their marriage.

Other relatives of Mrs. Ridgely occasionally written of in the letters were Mrs. Elizabeth Lowber, wife of Daniel, a paternal cousin; Betsy Alston, an orphaned maternal cousin who lived in the Ridgely family for several years, apparently in the capacity of child's nurse, until her marriage to Robert McClyment early in 1813; and Charity Alford, another maternal cousin.

The date of Henry M. Ridgely's majority, August 6, 1800, has been chosen as the point at which to separate his letters from those of his mother, Ann (Moore) Ridgely, and from the family group. His wife's letters, a few of which antedate their marriage, are collected in this chapter, excepting only those written to Miss Ann Ridgely and forming an integral part of Ann's correspondence.

Before 1811 the letters represent a miscellaneous group of business and legal letters, comprising the correspondence of both husband and wife with friends, chiefly former schoolmates, and with members of the Ridgely and McKee families. A scattering of letters between husband and wife bear witness to frequent visits Mrs. Ridgely paid her mother in Wilmington. Between 1811 and 1815 an interchange between them, so regular as to comprise almost a double diary for the months Congress was in session, has been preserved. It records much of the detail of life in Dover and Washington, the problems of farm and household management, political developments as seen through Federalist eyes, progress of the War of 1812, and the activities of mutual acquaintances. Letters of this period between Charles George Ridgely and his father suggest an outline of the boy's life between his eighth and twelfth years as well as reveal much about the education of a gentleman's son in that generation. The letters dating from after 1815, like those before 1811, are miscellaneous in character, with relatively few of them falling into a complete series. Legal business, politics, affairs of the Farmers Bank, personal friendships and family concerns are all represented. The greater number of documents of this later period belong to the years 1827-1832. Henry M. Ridgely's correspondence, at that time, bulks much larger than his wife's.

Mr. Ridgely's personal papers owned by the Public Archives Commission but not included in this *Calendar* total approximately 125 documents. They cover such diverse fields as school notebooks, political essays composed while he was a student, draughts and notes for speeches of his mature years, a few personal bills, papers relating to slaves, pamphlets and broadsides on subjects currently before the public, militia commissions, fragments of his preparations for legal cases, and a

set of papers relating to the Dulany family which came into his possession as administrator of Walter Dulany's estate. A diary from October 26, 1811 to March 15, 1815 contains memoranda of financial transactions, letters written, and business and social engagements while away from Dover during his terms as a Member of Congress. All entries are brief and without comment. Sally (Banning) Ridgely's folder of personal papers holds but a single item, a certificate of proficiency in music while she was a student at Mrs. Capron's Boarding School in Philadelphia.

The single known portrait of Henry M. Ridgely is a profile bust executed in wax while he was a member of the Senate. It is a rather curious fact that, although Sally Banning from childhood to middle age was described as beautiful, no portrait of her is known.

Sally Ann Comegys, whom Henry M. Ridgely chose as his second wife, was a daughter of Cornelius P. and Ruhamah (Marim) Comegys, born in Kent County, Delaware, on February 9, 1805. Her father, like the Ridgelys, came of a family long established in Maryland. He was an associate of Henry M. Ridgely in the management of the Farmers Bank, took an active part in public affairs, and, at the time of his daughter's marriage on May 17, 1842, had recently completed a term as Governor of Delaware. Although her husband described her as "long past the hey-day of youth", she was, none the less, younger than his eldest son. Neither Mr. Ridgely's children nor some, at least, of his wife's relatives were entirely pleased with the match. The second Mrs. Ridgely never won the complete allegiance of her step-children. For Henry himself, the marriage proved a happy one. His wife helped banish the loneliness that had followed Sally Banning's death and had become almost unbearable after his daughter Ann's marriage to Charles I. duPont. When illness overtook him a few years later, she proved an attentive nurse as well as a cheering companion through the long invalidism that preceded his death. After that event, she lived on in the Ridgely House on The Green for nearly forty years, until her own death on May 31, 1887.

Sally Ann (Comegys) Ridgely was childless. Her lasting influence upon the family therefore lay in her associations with her husband's sons and daughters, whose story follows in a

later portion of this *Calendar*. The few fragments of her correspondence which survive among the Ridgely papers are abstracted in the chapters centering about Ann (Ridgely) duPont and the Rev. Nicholas Ridgely.

ABSTRACTS

[MISS] SALLY BANNING, at MRS. COOK'S, [Wilmington], from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Camden, [Del.], Oct. 30, [1799].

Is worried at not hearing from Sally [her daughter] since she left. Sends winter stockings, "your pockets" and beads, with money to buy flannel for petticoats. "You can make them of nights." Will send the bed "when Miss Kitty's . . . goes." Mentions cousin Charity [Alford].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

[MISS] SALLY BANNING, at MRS. COOK'S, Wilmington, from ELIZABETH [MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Camden, [Del.], Dec. 9, 1799.

Begs her daughter to write promptly, for her "bad state of health" causes fear that she may be ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 22.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES THOMSON, Philadelphia, Nov. 16, 1800.

Is pleased to hear Delaware remained Federalist. Found in Pennsylvania the "negligence of the federalists and activity of the Demos" which his correspondent had noted. Charges that [Gov. Thomas] McKean obtained office by outrageous misrepresentation, particularly among "the Germans." Fears Jefferson has been elected and that his inauguration will bring "a new order of things." Concludes by saying: "You know [I am] always ignorant of Politics. This was never more true than at present as I hardly ever see a paper or hear a political Conversation."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from SUSAN F. MITCHELL, Duck Creek X [Cross] Roads, [Del.], Nov. 28, 1800.

Asks if the deposition of an important witness about to move from the State can be taken as evidence in the case of Hirker and Donnelly.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

MISS SALLY BANNING, near Campden, [Del.], from [MISS] ELIZA WILSON, Wilmington, Dec. 27, 1800.

Regrets that Sally is not to be in Wilmington for the winter and that her books have not yet been sent down. Asks if she liked *Thomson's Seasons*, commenting that her taste is not "so depraved" as that of most girls; "other things than romances" can entertain you. The examination of the young ladies at the [Wilmington] Academy was well attended. Wishes Sally had been there.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 23.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E. B. CLIMSON, Detroit, [Mich.], Jan. 6, 1801.

Finds Detroit a dull town peopled largely with lower-class French Canadians, and the coldest spot he has ever been in. Describes his Army duties. Expects a captaincy soon, for promotions have been rapid in the regiment. David Duncan and Mathew Henry are at his post. Remarks on the beauty of Miss W[ilson] of Carlisle, to whom he understands Henry will be married the following summer. Asks to be remembered to a young lady unnamed, and to various other Dover friends.

A. L. S., 3 pp., 23cm. x 37.5cm. [On the cover is the notation "Favored by Lt. Lewis"].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES THOMSON, Philadelphia, May 3, 1801.

Alludes to "the reports which gave you and your family so much unhappiness" [the loss at sea of U. S. S. *Insurgent*, on which George Ridgely was a midshipman]. Mentions [John] Hillyard, . . . Wooten, . . . Walton and . . . Clayton.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S STOCKTON, Wilmington, May 19, 1801.

Will have Henry's pistols repaired, and obtain a pair of pocket pistols. Mentions the gunsmith [Frederick] Schrader, and the fact that [Thomas] Clayton is very attentive to Miss [Jennett] Macomb.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E. B. CLIMSON, Detroit, [Mich.], June 3, 1801.

Describes Detroit, lively with traders from Canada, the Indian country, and the Atlantic seaports. The brig *Adams* is at Presque Isle with the new commanding officer and two companies of infantry. An encampment on the Ohio is reported

"very sickly" with a high death rate. [President Thomas] Jefferson chose his private secretary, Lt. [Meriwether] Lewis, from among the subalterns of Climson's regiment. Speaks of him as a "worthy young man." Was amazed at the intelligence of the Indian chief Capt. Brant, who is in town with his family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 23.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S STOCKTON, Wilmington, June 8, 1801.

Sends *Tragedy of the Robbers* for Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller, asking that it be returned to John Crow, of Wilmington, should his expected duel with Mr. . . . Stuart end in his death.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

H[ENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from MRS. [ELIZABETH] MILLER, [Dover, c. June 11, 1801].

Formally acknowledges receipt of *Tragedy of the Robbers*.

A. N. U. 1 p. 12.8cm. x 20cm.

MISS SALLY BANNING, Franklin Court, Philadelphia, from R. HILLYARD, Dover, July 15, 1801.

Sends greetings to "the Miss Youngs," Miss Oconer [sic], and Miss Madalain . . . Reproves Sally for failure to write. Inquires if Agnes . . . is coming to Dover for her vacation.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 18cm. x 22.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES THOMSON, Philadelphia, July 24, 1801.

Is glad their interrupted correspondence has been resumed. Was surprised to hear of [the duel] between [Thomas] Stockton and . . . Stewart. "Thompson, alias Dr. Holmes" has recently been in Philadelphia, purchasing medical supplies for establishing a practice in Granville County, North Carolina. Will soon visit his [own] family in Carlisle. Regrets that he cannot come to Dover also.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E. B. CLIMSON, Detroit, [Mich.], September, 1801.

Was pleased to hear the news of Delaware, and hopes Henry's next letter announces the election of a "Federal Governor" and defeat of "the Low Cunning of the Jacobins." Resents having the Army assigned to roadbuilding, clearing land and similar tasks. During a recent hurricane the sloop *Harlequin* foundered in Lake

Erie with all hands. Mentions Captains [David] Duncan and [Mathew] Henry and [Miss] P. Alex[ande]r of Carlisle. "Post is at length established to this place."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 23cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from TH[OMAS] CLAYTON, Downing Town, [Penna.], Sept. 17, 1801.

He and his companion [Mr.] Rogers are both recovering in the course of a lazy trip to Lancaster. Hopes to see Miss M. Zanginger and to "carry her to Kent." Saw two plays "wretchedly butchered" while in Philadelphia. Reminds . . . Hale to be "careful not to suffer the Democrats to get the advantage of us at the election. We are here among a damnable set."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES THOMSON, Philadelphia, Sept. 29, 1801.

Has just returned from a recent visit to Carlisle where he found their friends well. Has met Miss Carpenter, reported engaged to [Mr.] Frazer. Mourns the early death of their acquaintance, Dr. James Irvine, especially tragic because it occurred "far from home & among utter strangers."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

MISS SALLY BANNING, Mrs. Capron's School, Franklin Court, Philadelphia, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Camden, [Del.], Oct. 5, 1801.

Is very busy because Papa [Dr. William McKee, Sally's step-father] and Cousin Charity [Alford] are ill. Has given Mrs. Capron authority to say whom her daughter may visit. Mrs. . . . Sykes inquires if her niece Miss Goldsbery [Sally Goldsborough] is a schoolmate. [Sally's] brother [John Banning] is home, due to his instructor's illness.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES ROGERS, New Castle, [Del., c. January, 1802].

Fears the Democrats have "exulted more [in the election of Gov. David Hall] than if this contest had never been commenced." Hears many of that party from [New Castle] County attended the inauguration prepared for violence. Asks what the legislature did in respect to the "Pennsylvania Health Laws . . . so hostile to our commerce." Mentions [John] Vining, Miss Bassett, and [flippantly] "your blooming Phoebe."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [U. S. SENATOR] S[AMUEL] WHITE, Washington, Jan. 22, [1802].

Appreciates Henry's attention to his financial affairs. Reports that Mr. [Senator Joseph] Anderson has introduced a bill he considers unconstitutional.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY M.] RIDGELY and [MR.] HORSEY, Dover, from [U. S. SENATOR] S[AMUEL] WHITE, Washington, Jan. 27, 1802.

Explains the parliamentary manoeuvres in behalf of a resolution in which all three are interested. Suggests that the Federalists assume the name Constitutionals. Points out the political capital that may be made of S. Tellason's "contemptuous" reference to Delaware in a recent speech.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN DICKINSON, Wilmington, [Feb.] 22, 1802.

Congratulates Henry upon his admission to the bar, and sends \$20.00 as a retainer in "my action of ejectment now pending, and in all other future suits in which my family may be interested."

A. N. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 21cm.

H[ENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [U. S. SENATOR] S[AMUEL] W[HITE], Washington, Mar. 2, 1802.

Mourns the destruction of the Constitution by the passage of the Judiciary Bill. Its friends had hoped to prolong its life until March 4th, the thirteenth anniversary of its operation, "but one whole year was too long for these liberty gentlemen to submit to its restraints." Miss Nancy Dawson was obliged to apologize publicly for "casting some personal reflections on Mr. [James A.] Bayard."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from NATH[ANIE]L MITCHELL, George Town, Del., April 7, 1802.

Has entered judgement on the declarations contained in Mr. Ridgely's letter. Mentions Benj[ami]n Blackiston, Jonathan Dawson, Daniel Rogers, Alexander Daniel and W[illia]m Laws.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MISS SALLY BANNING, Mrs. Capron's School, 8th St. near Market, Philadelphia, from ELIZABETH [MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Camden, Del., April 11, 1802.

Severely reproves her daughter for failure to write often, and particularly for failure to acknowledge \$10.00 pocket money recently sent. Wishes her to have what she needs, both for ordinary requirements and for the forthcoming examination, though she should not be extravagant. Reminds her she will soon leave school.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.7cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ANN BRADEAU, Washington, June 8, 1802.

Upon the recommendation of W. [H.] Wells, she asks Mr. Ridgely to serve as her attorney for the collection of a debt for board and schooling due from "the late Mr. Charles Nixon for his stepdaughter Miss E[lizabeth] Loockerman now Mrs. Millar."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[ANN BRADEAU, Washington], from [HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], June 14, 1802.

Cannot accept the offered case because he is attorney and counsellor for Mrs. [Charles] Nixon and Mrs. [Elizabeth] Miller, the defendants. Recommends Thomas Clayton as an able and trustworthy lawyer.

A. Df. U. 1 p. 14cm. x 7.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOS[EPH] BARKER, Pittsburgh, Penna., July 23, 1802.

Gives detailed instructions for collection of debts from Abraham Kimmey, John Smithers, Hanah [sic] Conner, and John Petigrew and his son-in-law. Discusses steps needed to confirm title to land in St. Jones' Neck, bought at sheriff's sale of Caesar Rodney's estate but contested by Thomas Rodney. Has retained J[ames] A. Bayard to assist in the latter case.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOS[EPH] BARKER and A[LEXANDER] LAWS, Pittsburg[h], Penna., Aug. 6, 1802.

Wishes the division of the estate of Dr. John Laws set aside, for reasons explained at length. Mentions Daniel [Laws], William and Alexander Laws, Benjamin Blackiston and wife, and Joseph Barker as the heirs.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 21cm. x 25.3cm.

[MISS SALLY BANNING, n. p.], from [HENRY M. RIDGELY, n. p., Sept. 4, 1802].

Was deeply wounded by Sally's conduct at their last meeting, and assumes from it that she wishes to terminate their engagement, the course of which he outlines. Begs her to tell him he is mistaken.

A. L. U. 4 pp. 18.8cm. x 22.7cm.

H[ENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from NEHEMIAH TILTON, Wilmington, Jan. 4, 1803.

Inquires about "the state of the claims against Maj[o]r [James] Miller." Encloses a note from James Miller to Nehemiah Tilton for £1500.

A. L. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 23.8cm. [1 enclosure].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES ROGERS, New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 12, 1803.

"I congratulate you upon the return of the polite and accomplished Mrs. Miller." Facetiously suggests that Henry become her suitor in order to use her "forensic knowledge," and, after making her a Federalist, to "fill the columns of the [Federal] *Ark*" without difficulty. Hopes for admission to the bar at the next session of court. Is uneasy over the prospects of building a practice, a problem that did not confront Henry.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

MISS [SALLY] BANING [sic, n. p], from [MRS.] R. CAPRON, Philadelphia, [Mar.] 16, 1803.

Complains bitterly of her sufferings at the hands of a cruel rival and of the ingratitude of many of her pupils. Is confident Sally would have been loyal. Plans to spend the summer in Wilmington and requests information that may assist her. Hopes to meet Mrs. [William] McKee. [Written in somewhat poor French].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS [SALLY] BANNING, near Wilmington, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 31, 1803.

Looks forward, with affectionate eagerness, to a correspondence that will be the best substitute for being with his beloved Sally. Only in a congenial marriage is it possible "this side of heaven, [to] taste the purest happiness in the highest degree." Begs an earlier date for their wedding, for the time

he prefers is more suitable in all respects than [August]. Adds that his anxiety and his love are affecting his work. "My whole soul is filled with love and you."

A. L. S.	3 pp.	20cm. x 24cm.
A. Df. U.	4 pp.	16cm. x 19.4cm.

MISS [SALLY] BANNING, near Wilmington, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], "Eden Hill," [near Dover], April 1, 1803.

Misses Sally and feels hurt at her failure to write, but soon expects "to embrace [her] as a sister." Assures her she is delighted with the prospect of her marriage to Henry [Ridgely]. Alludes to an originally enclosed letter from him. Hopes the McKee family is comfortably settled in Wilmington and that her mother is reconciled to leaving her beloved Kent County. Inquires about Betsy Wilson and the Wethereds.

A. L. S.	2 pp.	20cm. x 24.5cm.
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HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from JOHN CALDWELL, Wilmington, April 16, 1803.

Has been unable to locate Henry's pistols "without exciting suspicion," but will, when Mr. [Thomas] McComb returns, make a further search for them.

A. L. S.	1 p.	19.4cm. x 31.8cm.
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HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] BANNING, Wilmington, April 19, 1803.

"I . . . feel in a degree abashed writing to one of your sex for the first time." Cannot accede to Henry's wishes regarding the date for their marriage, partly because her mother has recently moved to Wilmington, against her own inclination, for her sake.

A. L. S.	2 pp.	21cm. x 23.5cm.
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HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY, Dover, April 21, 1803.

Is concerned over Henry's injury in a duel [with . . . Shields] but is proud that he accepted the challenge. Brother N[icholas Ridgely] also approves, and has been very kind. Mother [Mrs. Ann Ridgely] "laments that a *son of hers* should so far forget the lessons she has strove to inculcate as to act in a manner so derogatory to the character of a Christian" but expressed less disapproval than the family expected. Speaks of

the concern and the helpfulness of Dr. [William] Horsey. Mentions Mr. . . . Rogers, Dr. [William] McKee and Mr. [James A.] Bayard. Abraham Ridgely and his wife greatly disapprove the duel. Was a bridesmaid at Mr. [John] Fisher's marriage, which was delayed a few days in the hope of Henry's return.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 23.7cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [MISS] M[ARY] RIDGELY, Dover, April 23, [1803].

Begs Henry to use great care to avoid any possible complication of his injury. Appreciates the great kindness of Dr. [William] Horsey and [Mr.] Rogers. Will come up if he is ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 26cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington, from TH[OMAS] CLAYTON, Dover, April 25, 1803.

Was amazed to learn that Henry's duel was with Mr. . . . Shields. Had supposed his antagonist was Mr. . . . Tilton. The first news was a distorted account brought by Peter Stout. Is relieved to learn his arm is healing and the bone was not broken. Asks if witnesses, in cases where he is the sole advocate, shall be summoned for the present term of court. [John] Fisher recently married Miss [Elizabeth] Wilson. Mentions "the tardiness of Dr. [Elijah] Barratt."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH] WILSON, Baltimore, Md., June 6, 1803.

Asks what disposition shall be made of his letters in her possession. Wishes her own letters and a ring she gave him, destroyed if he has not already done so.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

[MISS ELIZABETH WILSON, Baltimore, Md.], from [HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, c. June 8, 1803].

Outlines in much detail the events of the week of May 22, 1802, during which he visited Miss Wilson, then his fiancée, in Baltimore a number of times, and at the close of which their engagement was broken in the course of a disagreement over the wedding date.

A. Df. [incomplete] 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.7cm.

[MISS SALLY BANNING, Wilmington], from [HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, June 8, 1803.

Has waited in vain for a letter. Begs her to "oblige me by writing frequently and freely. . . . With delight I look forward to those pleasing scenes of domestic bliss which we shall shortly enjoy together."

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 18.6cm. x 24.7cm.

[MISS SALLY BANNING, Wilmington, from HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, July 3, 1803.

Thoughts of her and correspondence with her "constitute . . . almost the whole of my happiness." Impatiently awaits their marriage. Begs her not to delay it beyond November.

A. Df. U. 2 pp. 16.3cm. x 19.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] B[ANNING, Wilmington], July 12, 1803.

Promises to be a faithful correspondent, though she dislikes letter writing. Apologizes for her "misbehavior walking on the Brandywine," which was thoughtless only. His sister Ann's [Ridgely] friends hope she will be permitted to pay an extended visit in Wilmington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.9cm. x 23.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, July 12, 1803.

Wishes to know in advance when her brother will come for her. Is enjoying the visit and is not anxious to return, but fears their mother is lonely. Mentions Miss . . . Wilson, Ann Driver, Dr. [Thomas] Read, Mary Wynkoop who is visiting Miss [Mary] Vining, and "the battle . . . Broom had yesterday at his own door."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 23.8cm.

[MISS SALLY BANNING, Wilmington], from [HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], July 21, 1803.

Has put aside all thought of the difference that occurred while they were walking along the Brandywine. Thinks he may be blamed by their mothers if their marriage is delayed much beyond August. Pleads for a date no later than November.

A. Df. U. 3 pp. 20.8cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOS[EPH] BARKER, Wilmington, July 22, 1803.

Outlines legal business he wishes completed. Consults about collection of a debt due from the estate of Governor [Joshua] Clayton. Mentions John Hudson, Caleb Sipple, the estate of Dr. John Laws, Peter Stout, Robert Hall, the deed for "St. Jone's land" from Caesar Rodney's estate, Thomas Clayton, and Sal[l]y Edenfield. Lists, as parties interested in a Sussex County estate, legatees Daniel and William Polke, Ester Oliver and Ann Laws or their legal representatives, also "Margaret Barker, Alexander Laws, Daniel Laws and W[illia]m Laws and Hariet Lewis—D.[aughter of] Steven [Lewis]—, Children of John Laws and Ann his wife sister of Mrs. . . . Lowber and Aunt to Cleme Polke."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] A[NN] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, July 26, 1803.

Is uncertain whether to go home with Mr. [Samuel] White and Mr. [Thomas] Macomb or to wait for Harry. Speaks of invitations to visit at many Wilmington homes before returning. Paid a visit of condolence at [John] Dickinson's, where [his daughter] Maria is still grief-stricken [over the death of Mrs. Dickinson]. Mentions S[ally] Banning and [her mother] Mrs. [William] McKee.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, "Rockwell," [near Philadelphia], Aug. 11, 1803.

Explains why certain articles for Mary [Ridgely] are not yet ready to send. Getting to town is difficult. Has heard that Henry [Ridgely] is to be married the middle of the month; will be very much hurt if he does not invite her and Tom Cadwalader to the wedding. Regrets that "Mamma lets every idle tale of sickness prey on her mind," for there is very little in Philadelphia. Mentions Miss [Rebecca] Bond, Mr. . . . Rogers and Mrs. [Williamina] Cad[walader].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] BANNING, Wilmington, Aug. 12, 1803.

Has been ill with toothache and a swollen jaw. The report is quite current in Wilmington "that I am to be married next week, and that I have purchased a great many wedding clothes, and a great deal of silver."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 26cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from SAM[UE]L WHITE, Wilmington, Aug. 15, 1803.

Has received word from Lancaster that there is no [land] patent on file among the Delaware records there exactly answering the description Henry gave, but cites an entry similar enough to be the one sought. None of the land grants of the early period name the tracts.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS [SALLY] BANNING, near Wilmington, from HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 29, 1803.

Writes of their future life together and asks that their wedding be early in November, since she has set that month, and if she will not reconsider her decision to wait so long.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] S[ALLY] BANNING, [Wilmington], Sept. 17, [1803].

Has been ill, and is very reluctant to comply with her promise to be married in October or November. She is but sixteen, has not been out of school a year, and wishes to delay her marriage until spring, when she will feel more equal to its responsibilities.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS [SALLY] BANNING, near Wilmington, from [HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 25, 1803.

Is wretched in consequence of her last letter. Will consider any postponement beyond November as a termination of their engagement. Is not willing to jeopardize his professional standing by the effects of worry over repeated disappointments. Insists that she need not resign the pleasures she now enjoys or the affectionate care of her parents. Many women have been happily married at her age. Blames officious meddlers, one of whom he believes "under the mask of friendship has played the hypocrite," for attempting to prevent their marriage. Begs her to trust the judgement of her mother and other relatives who approve the match in preference to tales of jealous outsiders, and to honor her engagement at the time set.

A. L. [S. torn off] and A. Df. S. 3 pp. + 4 pp. 20.7cm. x 26.5cm.

HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] SALLY BANNING, Wilmington, Sept. 26, [1803].

Is amazed at Henry's termination of their engagement. Asks the return of her letters, and whether anything "injurious to [her] character" has been reported to him. Hopes she can master her love for him "as admirable as you have done."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS SALLY BANNING, Camden, near Dover, from CHARLOTTE AGUSTA HENRY WINDER, Frederica, D[el.], Oct. 28, [1803].

Wishes Sally happiness in her approaching marriage to Mr. [Henry] Ridgely. Fears they will not see each other soon unless Sally can plan a visit. Is enjoying *Children of the Abby*.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 19cm.

MISS SALLY BANNING, near Wilmington, from C. McCLYMENT, "Oak Hall," Dover, Nov. 2, 1803.

Hopes Sally has completely recovered from her recent illness. Asks if her insistence upon a visit at just this time is because "an important event" is about to occur. Will in that case come, but must otherwise plan her trip differently. Mentions Mrs. . . . Warner, Mr. [Henry] Ridgely and John Torbert.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 22.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from [DR.] W[ILLIA]M McKEE, Wilmington, Nov. 7, 1803.

Reports that [his step-daughter] S[ally] B[anning] has been ill from the effects of "violent" gum-boils, making it necessary to postpone the wedding until November 12th.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] S[ALLY] BANNING, Wilmington, Nov. 8, [1803].

"Dear Sir: . . . I cannot possibly consent to marry you on Monday," because of illness, but will do so the following week.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES M. BROOM, Wilmington, Nov. 10, 1803.

Will forward "the writing" [marriage contract] as soon as possible, though the delay in wedding plans makes haste less necessary.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Nov. 29, 1803.

Mr. Cox, the drawing master, promises to put "your Beaurow" aboard a shallop for Dover. Plans to have the music-master assist with crating the piano for shipment. Advises her daughter to be especially circumspect in her conduct because she is so young, and because "a good deal depends on setting out right." Dr. [William] McKee is ill. Sends greetings from the family, "even Black Peg."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] WILLIAMINA RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Dec. 8, 1803.

Has found a lodging place for Henry and his bride at Mrs. Malcolm's, on Arch St., at \$6.00 per week each. The Bonds would like to entertain them, but she herself thinks it better for [Sally] to be free to "be gaier than would be proper at this time" in their home. Hopes Mother [Mrs. Ann Ridgely] gives permission for her to remain longer with [her recently widowed cousin] Mrs. [Elizabeth] Travis.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from PHILEMON DICKINSON, George Town, [Del.], Dec. 9, 1803.

Gives directions for the steps he wishes taken to regain title to a property sold subject to a mortgage to George Ward, now deceased, with the least inconvenience and expense to himself and the widow Ann Ward, who has a large family and limited means. Mentions W[illiam] Ringgold and his own brother [John Dickinson].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 34cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, 109 Arch St., Philadelphia, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Dec. 19, 1803.

Discusses getting . . . Wilde to measure a chimney, apparently "for marble." Mentions new shoes, a letter for Mrs. [Williamina] C[adwalader], Sally's own trip and the Ridgely and McKee families. Refers to Dr. [William] Horsey. Would go to town herself if it would not cause gossip. Wonders how [Mrs. William McKee] liked Henry's [Ridgely] house. Sally's aunt is worse. Needs a pound of "brown hair powder."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [n. p.], from CLAYTON COWGILL, [n. p., Feb.] 25, 1804.

Wishes "the orders for the division of our Lands" renewed. The tract formerly belonging to Joseph Galloway and his sister Elizabeth Hillyard is to be included. Mentions I. Cowgill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23.3cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Mar. 4, 1804.

Would reconsider visiting Kent [County] until the roads were better if the plans were not fully made. May come by stage, more tiring and expensive than a carriage, but safer. Gossips about Miss . . . Broom and Mr. . . . Oldham. At New Castle Miss E. Alexander was recently married to Mr. . . . Black, and Miss . . . Biddle to the Mr. . . . Haughey with whom "Broom had the battle." Refers to Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely's health, Nancy Brown's affairs, and Mary [McKee].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIAM] POTTER, Pot[ters] Landing, . . ., Mar. 25, 1804.

Wishes the originally enclosed deed, Fisher to Fountain, recorded.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilmington, Mar. 25, 1804.

Misses her husband, and hopes he has recovered from his indisposition. The Rodneys have another infant son, Joseph Obrien Rodney, named "after an old Batchelor who is to educate it. Caesar [A. Rodney] . . . speaks of it with as much pleasure as if it were the first." Mentions Dr. and Mrs. [Thomas] Read, Mrs. . . . Broom, Mrs. . . . Voorhees, Miss . . . Broom, her own mother and Mary Ridgely. Is glad "Willy [Ridgely] has at length consented to return home."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilmington, Mar. 26, 1804.

Must wait until Henry can come for her, since her [step]-father is travelling by stage. Hears there is no court because of Mr. . . . Cooper's illness. Wishes to help Rachel Corker obtain a good place in Dover. Inquires about "Willy" [Ridgely] and her mother.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, May 2, 1804.

Purchased fringe better than that previously bought, muslin for a dress which will be made and sent down shortly, and four oranges. Could find no more good ones. Wishes she could get Sally a pineapple, for "nothing gives me more pleasure than to gratify you."

A. N. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS OGLE, Philadelphia, June 30, 1804.

Submits an estimate for a carriage, minutely described. It will cost \$680.00 or \$800.00 depending upon the style chosen.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, July 2, 1804.

Considers sending John [Banning] away to school. Wishes she knew a teacher to whom she could entrust him as confidently as she did Sally to Susan Hanson. Will send the lace and veil but could get no oranges. Mentions the Finneys, their daughter Mrs. . . . McMullan, Mrs. . . . Goldsborough and her sister, Dr. McKee, Betsy Alston, and members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21.6cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from EVAN THOMAS, [New Castle County, Del.], Sept. 4, 1804.

Writes, in behalf of the Committee of New Castle County, about Federalist activities. Meetings have been organized in most of the hundreds, circulars are in preparation and a fund is to be solicited "for the general purposes of the Election." Thinks Charles Anderson has a strong personal following and doubts the individual influence of "Vaughan and Mendenhall." Refers to a statement in the *Museum* which he believes will be helpful. Finds it rather difficult to distribute "*The Constitutionalist* because of "the politics of our Post Masters."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 33cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington, from ISAAC DAVIS, Dover, Oct. 29, 1804.

Suggests that Mr. Ridgely "sound Mr. [John] Dickinson" on sale of the Jones land. Affirms his willingness to take half the property, if it can be purchased reasonably, according to the agreement previously made.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ington], Nov. 13, 1804.

Inquires about her geranium, comments on the disagreeable weather in which her husband, Dr. [William] McKee and John [Banning] have had to travel. Mentions Ann and Mary [Ridgely], Charity [Alford] and Sam[ue]l Wethered. Will send down a barrel of the excellent pippens available in the neighborhood at "two and six pence or three shillings." Their infant son [Charles George Ridgely] is well.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, at DR. McKEE'S near Wilmington, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, Nov. 13, 1804.

Is anxious to see the baby [Charles George Ridgely], now three months old. Supposes [James A.] Bayard will be chosen [U. S.] Senator. Comments on Mrs. [James] Sykes' ambition for her husband. Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely and "Willy" are recovering. Abbey Howell and [Samuel] Newbold will be married tomorrow and Mrs. [Sarah] Mifflin and Mr. [Joseph] Turner the next day. Refers frequently to Dr. [William] Horsey. Was delighted with her bonnet, which is both pretty and becoming. Cautions [Ann Ridgely] against riding behind a dangerous horse. Refers to John Bellach, [Henry M. Ridgely], [Mr.] . . . Broom, [Mr.] . . . Cooper, Mr. . . . Robinson, and members of the McKee family. Mrs. . . . Schee is critically ill.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 27.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] JOHN VAUGHAN, Wilmington, Nov. 25, 1804.

Asks "whether the last vaccination has succeeded with your little son." If it has, recommends keeping linen clothes wet with lead-water on the arm for the first two days of inflammation and application afterward of mercurial ointment.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.4cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY RIDGELY, Dover, from PHILEMON DICKINSON, [Duck Creek] Cross Roads, Nov. 30, 1804.

Is on his way to Mr. . . . Ringgold's, where he expects to see Mr. David Lee of Dover. Asks that his recorded deed be sent him there. Will leave the sum due Mr. Ridgely with Mr. John Ringgold, since he must return at once.

A. L. S., 1 p., 20.8cm. x 24.8cm. [A notation on the cover asks immediate delivery].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from PHILEMON DICKINSON, Georgetown, [Del.], Dec. 1, 1804.

Gives further directions for handling [the late George Ward's] property. Wishes the recorded deed delivered to his brother [John Dickinson] who is in or near Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from PHILEMON DICKINSON, Georgetown, [Del.], Dec. 3, 1804.

Encloses a receipt to Jonathan Manlove, former sheriff, for "the amount of the sale of the late Geo[rge] Ward's land."

A. N.S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN DICKINSON, Wilmington, [Jan.] 12, 1805.

General [Philemon] Dickinson wishes the Sheriff's deed sent to Wilmington after being recorded. [H. M. Ridgely added a memorandum showing the deed was sent January 25].

A. N. U. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Feb. 17, 1805.

Pities Mrs. [John C.] Brush, who bears her trials with dignity. Fears her husband, now seeking a place in "some of the back settlements" will do well nowhere. Mrs. . . . Rennals is proven innocent. Maria Vorheese is ill. Is glad there is hope of Mrs. . . . Warner's recovery, for her young children need her. Ann Stewart's excellent marriage must please the McClenaghans. Was shocked to learn Mr. . . . Schee was courting Mrs. . . . Macy so soon after his wife's death. Cautions her daughter to see that the hams are thoroughly smoked so they will keep through the summer. Refers to Dr. [Thomas] Read, John Torbert, Charles George, Mary and Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely, John [Banning], Charity [Alford], Betsy Alston and her own husband. Hopes Sally and Henry [Ridgely] do not "move such a distance."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Mar. 4, 1805.

Is distressed to hear Sally has injured her eye and Charles George [Ridgely] has been so painfully ill. Saw Mary Bassett. Mentions Charity [Alford]. "Mr. McClean" [Samuel McLane]

opposes John Hillard's [Hillyard] desire to "court Sally Lockerman." Dr. McKee is anxious to settle his business in Kent [County], but is still too ill to come down.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] W[ILLIA]M McKEE, Wilmington, Mar. 4, 1805.

Has been ill for some days but will now be able to settle his business whenever Mr. [Henry] Ridgely can assemble the others concerned. Acknowledges \$1004.00 "on Willoughby's account," and asks delivery of the \$1000.00 "from the sale of [John C.] Brush's property" at the first opportunity so that it can be profitably reinvested. Sympathizes with Sally's injury, due, he supposes, to her "defect of eyesight on the approach of night," and with the baby's [Charles George Ridgely] painful "external tumor." Says the latter is not dangerous.

A. L. S., 2 pp., 19.8cm. x 25cm. [Enclosed with item above].

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Mar. 17, 1805.

Says the [Negro] girl is still available for £50, but a prompt decision must be made. Though the price seems high, this girl is said to be very good, and competent servants are scarce. Hopes Sally can come up next month when John [Banning] is home. Refers to Betsy Stewart and Mrs. . . . Read. [Dr. McKee adds a message to Henry M. Ridgely. See entry below].

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from [DR.] W[ILLIA]M McKEE, Wilmington, Mar. 17, 1805.

Discusses business being transacted for him in Dover. Hopes the money can be sent promptly, for "8 per cent stock" may now be bought advantageously. Inquires about "our Trial before the Supreme Court vs Brown." Gunning Bedford [Jr.] is holding court "respecting the vessels brought here by the Collector" with Read and Rodney for the United States, Bayard, Broom and Vandyke for the pilots. Wishes to be "personally present . . . to attend on the division of the Estate."

A. L. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 25cm. [On sheet with letter from Mrs. McKee].

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, at DR. McKEE'S, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, June 7, 1805.

Considers it his wife's duty to write to him by at least every second mail. Asks her to engage lodgings at Mrs. Brooks' for Ann [Ridgely] who has not been well. Speaks of Mr. . . . Rogers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.6cm. x 20.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ington], June 9, 1804 [1805].

Thinks there is great danger in crossing Cantwell's Bridge "with a wild horse" and begs him to avoid that route. Will make room reservations in Wilmington for Ann [Ridgely], but is somewhat hurt by her failure to stay at McKees'. Though "it will be an everlasting offense to the family," she refused to take Mrs. . . . Stewart's colored girl when the price was raised. Wishes to keep [their son Charles George] in Wilmington until "after the sickly season." Mentions Mr. and Mrs. . . . Broom and Hetty, Dr. and Mrs. Monroe, and Betsy Stewart.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ington], June 14, 1805.

Has been ill. "In point of society [Wilmington] is as stupid as Dover," but the former at least has a healthful climate. She misses the use of the carriage horse, which is sick. Nearly fainted from standing at the "mantua-makers" while having a dress fitted. Mentions their son, [servant] Rachel and Mrs. Brook's "monstrous price" of \$4.50 a week for board.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, near Wilmington, from [MISS] M[ARY] R[IDGELY], Dover, June 14, 1805.

Wishes she might "get in an hour from here to Wilmington" so she could see Charles George [Ridgely] often. Misses him constantly. Explains Ann's [Ridgely] plans for travelling to Wilmington. Made 12 pints of currant jelly but no strawberry. Was "mortified . . . at being caught . . . by Dr. [William] H[orsey]" with Mrs. . . . Sykes, who is ill during a pregnancy. Has heard of the death of Jane [Mrs. Jacob Jones], the third of the young cousins who spent the summer [of 1795] together in Rhode Island who has since died. Mrs. [David Meade] Randolph speaks highly of [John Banning]. Mary Bassett is still in town. Mentions Betsy Wilson and the members of the McKee household. Asks about Charity [Alford]'s "Beau."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ington], June 23, 1805.

Ann Ridgely is about to go to Philadelphia after a brief stay in Wilmington. A later note adds that Ann was too ill to call on the McKees as planned, so probably will delay her trip.

Complains of not hearing from her husband, and of her own frequent spells of illness. Mentions Mary [Ridgely], Betsy Alston, and "Black Maria."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ington], June 27, 1805.

Heard an excellent oration by Mr. Roach [Edward Roché] at the Masons' celebration. Criticizes his overly extravagant praise of "our sex." Wishes [Charles George Ridgely] had finished teething so he could be safely weaned. Explains Ann's [Ridgely] "coolness with our family" by her "dreadful health; many persons think her dropsical." Really good decanters cost \$7.00 each. Supposes Henry will not want to be away on July 4th, a day when the Master's presence to "take care of his own house" is advisable. Mentions Betsy Alston and "poor Killen . . . an unfortunate wretch."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, July 21, [c. 1805].

Hopes her daughter and grandson escaped the storm on their way home. Betsy [McKee] is visiting Mr. . . . Davis. Mrs. . . . Ross is very ill from "a stroke of the palsy" suffered a few weeks after the birth of her child.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [PHINEAS] BOND, Germantown, Penna., Aug. 28, 1805.

Ann [Ridgely, who has been critically ill at the Bond family's home] is losing strength rapidly and is expected to live but a few hours. Mr. Bond fears the effect of her death may have upon her mother and Williamina Ridgely who thus far "have forgot themselves" in their care of her.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from THO[MA]S COOPER, Geo[rge] Town, [Del.], Oct. 15, 1805.

Explains an enclosed "bill in Chancery by Edward Polk against the State of Delaware." Fears a suit against the State cannot be admitted, but suggests parallels in English practice and common law. Refers to the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 34cm.

HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphi]a, Oct. 19, 1805.

Fears the inscription for [Ann Ridgely's] tombstone will not be completed "before the frost sets in" unless it is forwarded to him promptly. Sends his respects to the family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Dec. 15, [1805].

Tells of an uneventful trip to Philadelphia with brief stops at Wilmington, [Delaware] and Darby, [Pennsylvania]. Saw Mr. and Mrs. [Thomas] Bradford, the Bonds and Tom Cadwalader. Is staying "at Francis's in fourth Street" since Mrs. Malcolm's house was full. Refers to Mary [Ridgely] and their own son.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. [RIDGELY], Phila[delphia], Dec. 19, 1805.

Reproves his wife for failure to write. Has just purchased for her "a pair of little ugly black ponies for four hundred dollars." Gives directions for having [Negro] Jo meet him in Wilmington. Has sent down 25 yards of carpeting, a warming pan and a box of raisins. Refers to [Lord Horatio] "Nelson's victory and glorious death," and to the Russians' reported victory over the French. Is anxious to be home.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.3cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Wilmington], Dec. 22, 1805.

Will not need Jo since Dr. [William] McKee is sending down one of his servants who can drive the carriage. Has shipped to Forest Landing, by Captain Morris, a cask of wine, a barrel of porter and two boxes of "good things for you." Is hurt at receiving no letter by N[icholas] Loockerman.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from S[AMUEL] WHITE, Washington, Feb. 13, 1806.

Approves a statement [of an administrator's account] recently sent him, and wishes the referee's report made promptly. Inquires about "the releases" one of which concerns Dr. [James L.] Clayton and the administrator of Maria Polk.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN TORBERT, Wilmington, Feb. 13, 1806.

Replies to an inquiry concerning a receipt for a debt due from J[ohn] Vining to Margaret Bail. Mentions Mr. [C. A.] Rodney.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN TORBERT, Wilmington, Feb. 14, 1806.

Has received from Mr. [C. A.] Rodney a copy of Margaret Bail's judgement against J[ohn] Vining, showing payment in full. Sends a copy of voucher No. 34.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, [Wilmington], Mar. 22, 1806.

Worries about not hearing from Sally. Hopes a friend is "so fortunate as to raise" the baby daughter of whom she is so "extravagantly fond." Mentions Mr. . . . Brown's cordiality, and the runaway slave Antony, who will be sold. Betsy Wilson is still uncertain about moving. Sympathizes with her and her family. Refers to her own grandsons [Charles George and Nicholas Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE and [DR.] W[ILLIAM] McKee, Wilmington, May 1, 1806.

Hopes "the tiffany" [gauze or silk fabric] arrived safely. Is relieved to learn her grandson "had missed his ague" and seems to be improving. Looks forward to Sally's planned visit. Refers to the death of Mrs. . . . Stewart's only son, to the death of Mrs. . . . Read's brother and to the departure of "the Wilson girls." P[eggy] Singar [a McKee servant] has disappeared.

Dr. McKee adds a note asking Mr. Ridgely when the Court of Common Pleas begins, and to deliver a message to [Mr.] . . . Allee about the use of "the Lots down town."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from THO[MA]S WITHERSPOON, Wilmington, May 15, 1806.

Sends data concerning the case of John Cochran, administrator of John Cochran, Jr., vs. Thomas Rothwell.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

[HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from PETER ROBINSON, [Sussex County, Del., c. July, 1806].

Asks Mr. Ridgely's personal opinion, and his estimate of sentiment in Kent County, regarding a special session of the legislature to provide for raising Delaware's share of 100,000 completely equipped militiamen ready for service on call, as requested by President Jefferson. The Governor [Nathaniel Mitchell] thinks the measure necessary for the public safety, but hesitates to incur "an expense that might hereafter prove unprofitable." Mr. Robinson himself believes the Legislature should be promptly summoned.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 32cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ington], Sept. 23, [1806].

Will be ready to accompany her husband home at any time, but supposes he will prefer to remain until after election. Mentions a hurricane the preceding day, during which their coach was slightly damaged. There are no good quinces in the Wilmington markets.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington], Sept. 27, 1806.

"Your letter, my dear Mr. R. I read with tears." Had no desire to remain away longer, but merely thought it inconsiderate to ask her husband to come for her just before election. Thinks a second letter, asking him to do so, miscarried. Expected him on Monday. Is anxious to see Charles George [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] W[ILLIAMINA] RIDGELY, Wilmington, Oct. 8, 1806.

Discusses the purchase of some silk, a yard of "plain Leno" [a curtain fabric] at six shillings, nine pence, a black handkerchief, and a "small vial of rhubarb." Is sorry Dover is "so unhealthy" now. At Mr. [John] Dickinson's met "a Mr. James Fisher . . . who I fancy is a beau of Maria's [Dickinson]; . . . he is her cousin." Was surprised at the unusual cordiality of "the Lord of the Mansion," who sent her flowers and a book, though she is not ordinarily a favorite of his. Mentions Miss Fussell [a seamstress], [merchant, Mr.] Gardener, Peggy Singer, Mr. Wethered, Mrs. Freeman, Ann Patten, Miss [Mary] Vining, Miss . . . George, Eliza George, members of the Ridgely family, and the death of Betsy Cook.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.8cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES M. BROOM, Wilmington, Oct. 21, 1806.

Requests the proven account of [Broom, Littler & Co. vs. Gilbert Semans, deceased] which "my friend in Balto[more]" needs. Mentions Mr. . . . Barratt.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from DAN[IE]L RODNEY, Lewes, [Del.], Dec. 15, 1806.

Outlines the history of a contract between Mr. [Richard] Bassett and Mr. . . . Hargess, since in litigation between them. Mentions a "plantation in Pilot Towne" [Lewes, Del.], and financial transactions concerning it which affect the present business.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from SAM[UE]L WHITE, Washington, Jan. 13, [1807].

Refers to "an extraordinary diplomatic communication . . . in which bullying and invective are substituted for civility and argument." Finds it impossible to believe the differences with Spain have been settled "unless great sacrifices have been made by us." Asks what has been done "in the business of Mr. [James L.] Clayton and myself."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from S[AMUEL] WHITE, Washington, Feb. 15, 1807.

Explains legal steps he wishes taken to protect his interests, as executor of Maria Polk, in a dispute with Dr. [James L.] Clayton, administrator of John Polk. Mentions Daniel Polk, deceased, She[ri]ff Lockwood and Mr. [James A.] Bayard. The French Ambassador assures our Government that "Napoleon's proclamation does not extend to American commerce." Harper & Martin vs. Rodney will appear before the Supreme Court "in the case of Swartwout & Bollman." Mrs. [David] Erskine is "esteemed and admired here." Congress will soon adjourn.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from E[LIZA-BETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Aug. 29, [c. 1807].

Expects to be down Monday if the weather is good. Has written several letters during the last three weeks, none of which have arrived. Refers to the Ridgely children.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from McKIMY SMACKE, Lexington Mills, [Murderkill Hd., Kent County, Del.], Sept. 14, 1807.

Encloses Arnold Naudain's bond, for which he expects Dr. William McKee to give face value and part of the interest due. Asks if the Doctor is ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.3cm. x 21cm.

[MRS.] HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ington], Sept. 19, 1807.

She and Dr. McKee have both been ill and both have also met with accidents. They are now recovering. The doctor has the money for [McKimy] Smack if he will agree to the conditions proposed. Hopes [Charles George Ridgely] is better and is glad little John [Ridgely] stays well. Thinks "Joe" no worse a servant than the one the Ridgelys had before. Good ones are not obtainable.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from R[ICHARD] COOPER, [Kent County], Sept. 24, 1807.

Asks payment of twenty dollars due him, which he will need for the expenses of his son Ezekiel [Cooper] whom he plans to "send up . . . to New Ark tomorrow."

A. N. S. 1 p. 17.5cm. x 14cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, and [DR.] W[ILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Sept. 27, 1807.

Though disappointed because Sally will not come until after election, agrees that she should not leave [Charles George] while he is ill or take him from his aunt, to whom he is so attached. Talked recently with Mrs. [R.] Capron. Is grateful Dr. McKee's injuries were no more serious than they have proved.

Dr. McKee sends word to Mr. Ridgely to issue a writ for \$60.00 rent due from [the estate of] his tenant Alex[ander] Hamilton, who recently drowned. Wishes to know at once if [McKimy] Smack will not accept his conditions in regard to [Arnold Naudain's] bond, for the sum can be well invested elsewhere. Is improving, though still weak.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Mansion House Hotel, Philadelphia, from PETER CAVERLY, Dover, Oct. 12, 1807.

Is busy filling up the last of the [Farmer's Bank] notes, which he expects the merchants will take up in the next day's anticipated heavy demand. Many are borrowing from the bank in preference to buying on credit in Philadelphia. Will need large notes. Wishes "paper" had been taken from New Castle to be printed while Mr. Ridgely is in the city. Will purchase stock for Mr. . . . Welsh if it is available.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from PHILEMON DICKINSON, "Hermitage," [near Trenton, N. J.], Nov. 11, [18]07.

Wishes suit, in his son's name, brought against . . . Lockwood for violating an agreement concerning a farm, provided the man's credit rating justifies the action.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 33cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES M. BROOM, Baltimore, [Md.], Jan. 29, 1808.

Has recommended Mr. Ridgely to "Oliver & Smith, Merchants of Philad[elphi]a," who have legal business to be transacted in Dover. Hopes he will find it convenient to serve "my friends."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.8cm. x 22cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS G. ADDISON, [Alexandria, Va.], Mar. 3, 1808.

Discusses the title to "the Retreat" in Maryland and lands in Delaware belonging to "Mrs. [ThomasH.] Hanson, my mother" through the Dulany estate, but liable for the debts of Mr. Hanson's estate. Refers to Horace Belt, Samuel Hanson, a son of Tho[ma]s Hawkins Hanson, "Uncle [Walter] Dulany," "my late grandmother Mrs. [Mary] Dulany of Annapolis" and Samuel Rideout. Makes certain suggestions for the protection of Mrs. Hanson's interests.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ISAAC DAVIS, [Dover], April 9, 1808.

Wishes his suit against Edw[ar]d Stapleford discontinued, since the claim has been adjusted.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 23.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, near Wilmington, May 21, [1808].

Is hurt at having received no letter. Begs her husband to take her and her sister Betsy McKee to Philadelphia "for about four days." Inquires about their son C[harles] G[eorge Ridgely] and Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely. Mentions Dr. [Thomas] Read, [Mr.] . . . Wilkinson, the Rodney family, Miss . . . Hamilton, the Wethered family, Betsy [Alston] and "the Vandiford girls."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, May 25, 1808.

Is lonely and very anxious for Sally's return despite the fact his professional engagements and [Farmer's] Bank affairs keep him occupied. Cannot take his wife and [her] sister to Philadelphia. Did not take the trouble to see [Mr.] . . . Wilkinson, though he knew he was in New Castle. Was called out to his mother's to see Charles George, who was whimpering with a sore elbow. He now seems well and has recently mentioned the pain only to obtain a cake. Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely worries a great deal about the child. Orders the carriage repaired.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ingto]n, May 29, 1808.

Is worried by news about C[harles] G[eorge]'s arm. Peas are in season and strawberries are almost ready. Sees little difference in the growing season between Wilmington and Dover. Tells Mary [Morris] good Venetian blinds are \$8.00 each, and asks for instructions about ordering. Asks what kind of a housekeeper Betsy [Alston] is, and cautions her about care of the turnip patch. Speaks of Mrs. [Thomas] Read, Mrs. [James A.] Bayard, Mrs. [C. A.] Rodney, Mrs. . . . Monroe and Betsy [McKee].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [Mrs. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, May 31, 1808.

Wishes, for the McKees' use, some "bordering" left over from the Ridgelys' recent redecorating. Criticizes Mrs. [James A.] Bayard for having "a dancing party . . . so soon after so amiable a sister's death."

A. L. [S. inferred] 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, June 12, 1808.

Reproves Sally for being discontented when she has "every comfort that Dover can afford." Hopes she will not have to spend her entire life there but does not consider a move now advisable. Dr. McKee has been ill. Mr. . . . Janson died last week. Is pleased to hear of Betsy Alston's satisfactory conduct in Sally's absence.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Aug. 31, 1808.

Reproves her husband for failure to write. Dr. [William] McKee has recovered from an illness "after being bled and taking calomel." Complains of the price of linens and sheeting. Asks her husband's consent for her to go to Philadelphia with Mrs. . . . Read, and \$30.00 for expenses if he approves the trip.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, at DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 31, 1808.

Stopped at the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] overnight on the way home from Wilmington. T. Hanson Belt, a nephew of Mr. [Walter] Dulany, brought a baby's cap as a gift from Miss . . . Dulany. Many Dover residents are at "camp meeting on Wye River." Wishes his wife to copy "the agreement now in the hands of Doct[or] McKee." Mentions Mrs. . . . Hill and Mrs. . . . Sykes.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. [RIDGELY], Dover, Sept. 5, [1808].

Begs his wife to write by every mail. Mr. M[atthew] Driver came with his brother Henry to have Dr. [James] Sykes remove a wen. "Mrs. . . . Meredith presented the world with a fine boy." Cannot accompany his wife to Philadelphia because of the pressure of professional affairs and the demands of the [Dulany] estate. Highly disapproves of her going without him, since it may cause uncharitable comment, but does not forbid the trip. Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely and Charles George are well and Mary [Morris], better.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Sept. 6, 1808.

Relinquishes the planned trip to Philadelphia with Mrs. . . . Read, but coaxes her husband to take her. Refused a dinner invitation at [Caesar A.] Rodney's as "there was no great intimacy between you and him." Saw George Read and Mrs. Read, and the Bayards. Refers to a scandal involving Mrs. . . . Meredith.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Sept. 14, 1808.

Arrived home safely at seven-thirty, having left Wilmington at ten-fifteen and come by way of New Castle. Found the family well. "Perhaps you will consider it news . . . that Willard Hall, Esquire, is put in the democratic ticket as a candidate for representative in the State Legislature," with his express consent. Will "settle with Davis and Walker" at Smyrna.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Sept. 18, 1808.

Has bought a handsome hat for her son for \$2.25. Asks permission to extend her visit a week so she may see [her brother] John [Banning], due home shortly after she had planned to leave. Describes ". . . Stuart's wife." Peter Lowber from Smyrna is dying. Fears he will not live till Daniel [Lowber] arrives. Comments on the serious drought.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Sept. 25, 1808.

Because of his wife's letter of the 18th he has postponed coming for her until next Friday. "If I could understand that you would then condescend to return to so dull and trifling a place as this I would on the wings of sincerest love hasten to welcome you home." After that date he will be occupied by the election and by Court of Appeals business for some time.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JONA[THAN] PINKNEY, Annapolis, Md., Oct. 24, 1808.

Will gladly attend a proposed meeting of Mr. [Walter] Dulany's creditors.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Stelle's Hotel, Washington, Nov. 6, 1808.

Reached Washington after a twenty-six-hour continuous ride in the mailcoach over bad roads, but felt surprisingly little fatigue. Has a room to himself, though the hotel is filled with Congressmen. After travelling twice through Washington and Georgetown does not wonder that many members of Congress wish to move the Capital to Philadelphia, for "there appears to be nothing here either entertaining or beautiful." Is anxious to be home.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 18.7cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Stelle's Hotel, Washington, Nov. 11, 1808.

Has finished his Washington business so far as possible, and engaged a seat in the once-a-week stage for Annapolis. Has just seen the Hall of the House of Representatives, and admits it is "a most superb and elegant room." The Senate chamber will not be finished this winter. Called briefly upon Mr. [President Thomas] Jefferson. "In him I saw nothing that struck my admiration. He appeared pretty much as I supposed he would." Thinks the embargo will be more strictly enforced rather than lifted. Left his card at Mrs. [David] Erskine's.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.3cm. x 18.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JACOB STOUT, [Little Creek Hd., Del.], Nov. 14, 1808.

Offers a discount for immediate payment of the balance due him from [Walter] Dulany's estate. Alludes to his own illness. Mentions Samuel Price.

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.5cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[OHN] ORRELL, Dover, Nov. 28, 1808.

Mr. . . . Barker wishes "the trial of his negro woman against him put off" until he can attend. Wants Joseph Alford and Mr. . . . Wilson summoned as witnesses.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from C[AESAR] A. RODNEY, Wilm[ingto]n, Nov. 29, [1808].

Asks the grounds on which Mr. Ridgely has hesitated to convey title to certain Dulany estate lands at Annapolis to the United States without further legal authorization.

[A memo signed HMR June 14, 1809 explains his reasons, and the legal opinion under which he had already made the transfer before receiving Rodney's letter].

A. L. S. 2 pp. + 1 20cm. x 21cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, Feb. 23, 1809.

Inquires about her infant granddaughter [Williamina Ridgely] whose cold has greatly worried her. Has sent two pounds of chocolate, "one pair of nipple glasses," and some white ribbon. Will purchase stockings in "the City." Sally's dress is to be sent at once. Thinks she will take Betsy [McKee] to Philadelphia next week to be placed [at school] with Mrs. Grelaud. Phebe George will go there in the spring. Refers to Miss . . . Fussel, Mrs. . . . Scotton, and Betsy Alston.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.3cm. x 19.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilmington, July 2, 1809.

Mary [W. Ridgely] is only slightly better. Urges her husband to "get that poor child [unnamed] placed in the Poorhouse as soon as you can" for the matter worries her greatly. Their daughter [Williamina Ridgely] is well. Inquires for Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely.

A. L. [S. implied] 1 p. 20.6cm. x 26cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, July 7, 1809.

Is relieved to hear her husband and son are well. Thinks Mary [W.] Ridgely better, though she still suffers from malaria. Visited Mrs. [Thomas] Robinson at Naaman's Creek. Also saw [Adolph U.] Wertmuller's paintings which she considered "elegant beyond description." The Society of Cincinnati has collected \$600.00 for a monument for General [Anthony] Wayne's grave, "more than our Congress would have done on such an occasion." Seton Vining is a midshipman on Capt. [Jacob] Jones' frigate. Asks Henry to come for the weekend and bring C[harles] G[eorge]. Refers to their daughter [Williamina], Miss [Mary] Vining and Miss . . . George.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.7cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN DRINKER, Philadelphia, July 20, 1809.

Inquires about the progress of an action for debt, instituted for W[illia]m Craige against "McClyment & Manlove, of Dover."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, [Wilmington], Aug. 2, 1809.

Is worried about the report that Williamina [Ridgely] is ill. Will send Sally's [Ridgely] things by the first stage. Comments on [Mr.] . . . Holmes, who has left college because of his health. Mr. [John] Davis has just left for Carracus. Fears "such long postponements will end in a disappointment to Betsy" [McKee], whom she thinks very much in love with him. "It is now time she was settled." Hopes Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely is improving.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S WITHERSPOON, Wilmington, Aug. 2, 1809.

Replies to a recent letter, explaining certain items in the [originally enclosed] bills of cost.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S CADWALADER, Philad[elphia], Oct. 12, 1809.

Mr. Howell is replacing a coffee pot which was not satisfactory as first made, so its delivery will be delayed. States [Mrs. Ann Ridgely's] account.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.3cm. x 22.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Wilmington], Nov. 4, 1809.

Arrived safely with her daughter [Williamina]. Made the trip to Wilmington in a single day and spent a night at Mr. . . . Lowber's before going out [to McKees']. The trip cost \$4.00.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 12cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington], Nov. 5, 1809.

[Samuel] White died "of the bleeding of the lungs" and will probably be buried in Wilmington. Tells of "the celebrated Miss Rogers, who paints, sews, etc.," very competently without the use of her hands, by managing the implements "with her mouth." Is reading Cicero's *Epistles*. Hopes the repairs will be completed before her return. Suggests Charles George [Ridgely] be started to school. Williamina is well.

A. L. [S. implied] 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Nov. 9, 1809.

Was very much hurt by her husband's last letter. Wonders if he received the one she mailed Sunday, for the postmaster "is remarkably disobliging." Asks about [Charles George] and about the repairs. Suggests arrangements for her return.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 13, 1809.

Defends himself against the charge of writing coldly. "The most delightful task of a married woman should be to reciprocate her husband's love, to comply with his wishes, and to render him contented, happy and comfortable." Refuses to set a date for her return, since he left that choice to her, but is hurt that she shows no more eagerness to be home. Reproves her for leaving his letters where they may be read by others.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.9cm. x 19cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Nov. 16, 1809.

Was disappointed and hurt at her husband's failure to come for her, but relieved by his letter. Knows a wife's first duty should be to please her husband, but he in turn "should be kind and affectionate to encourage a wife to her duty." Will return in a few days with [Dr. McKee]. Refers to the children.

A. L. [S. implied] 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

H[ENR]Y M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] A[BRAHAM] RIDGELY, [Smyrna, Del., December, 1809].

His daughter Mary [W. Ridgely] is so much worse he fears she will live but a few hours. Wants Mrs. . . . Riley sent for, and any others of the family or friends discouraged from coming up.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.8cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] A[BRAHAM] RIDGELY, [Smyrna, Del., December, 1809].

Mary has died. Plans to have her buried in "the Methodist meeting burial ground," beside her sister [Margaretta Ridgely]. Asks his brother to arrange certain details for the funeral in Dover, reminding him that the grave and coffin must allow for

the girl's "uncommon height." Intends "to take her down as our dear sister Willy [Williamina Ridgely] was taken in a family waggon." Hopes their relatives and friends will come to Smyrna or "at least meet us on the road."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.6cm. x 20.5cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] ELIZA W. BIGGS, Steubenville, [Ohio], Dec. 5, 1809.

Assures her correspondent that "my sister" had a comfortable trip across the mountains by carriage, though accompanied by her infant. Hopes her friend may someday take the trip. Refers to a recent visit from "Cousin Rebec" and Miss . . . James, who have now returned. Her own infant, Ann Louisa [Biggs] is a great joy to her. Sends regards to Mrs. [William] McKee and Mrs. [Ann] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from L[EVIN] C[HARLES, n. p., c. 1810].

Asks what steps he should take concerning an originally enclosed contract of sale between himself and Benjamin Whitely, now in dispute. Explains the points at issue.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 32cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, Jan. 2, 1810.

Sends New Year's greetings. The [McKee] girls must have "some protector" to come down by stage. When preparing sewing cotton for herself and Sally she also spun thread for the "coverlid," weaving of which cost 12 shillings 9 pence. The mantua, to be made up when the seamstress recovers, was \$1.50 a yard. Sends a gift of currants and oranges.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] Mc[KEE, Wilmington], Feb. 11, 1810.

"The girls" [Elizabeth and Mary McKee] arrived safely after their trip to Dover, which they greatly enjoyed. They have now gone to Philadelphia. Mentions Hester . . . , Sally Stewart, [Williamina and Henry M.] Ridgely, Mrs. [C. A.] Rodney, the Wethereds, [Nicholas] Dorsey, and Miss . . . Clifton, who fainted during her wedding. [Mr.] . . . Conlyn sends word Dr. [William] McKee's sheep are dead. He has gone to Kent County hoping to save his cattle.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.6cm. x 19.6cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, April 27, [c. 1810].

Captain [John] Hunn died Sunday. Understands his estate is smaller than was commonly supposed. Pities [his daughters] Mrs. [C. A.] Rodney and Marie [Vorheese]. Finds it impossible to hire satisfactory help during [servant] Peggy's illness. Refers to John [Banning] and to [Dr. William McKee].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ingto]n, June 20, 1810.

Hopes neither Henry nor Charles George [Ridgely] are ill from travelling home in the rain. Refers to [her daughter] Williamina, to [Mrs. Ann Ridgely and Mrs. William Morris]. Took a pleasant ride with Mrs. Read to the mineral spring. "The Bayards set off today in a very dashing superb coach" which had just been delivered from Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, June 28, 1810.

Sympathizes with the [Peter] Caverly family in the loss of their son. Attended a tea at Mr. [Kensey] Johns'. People in Wilmington seem determined to send Mr. Ridgely to Congress. Met the Vandyck family and General [Thomas] Robinson. Hopes the change of air will keep Williamina [Ridgely] well through the summer; at present she "fattens very fast."

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, July 5, 1810.

Was disappointed to receive no letter on her husband's return home. Worries over [Mrs. Ann M. Ridgely's] failing health. Refers to Betsy Lynch, and to their children. Points out that in this letter she is asking for no money, and has no news, but writes only as a token of affection. "Could we mutually forbear, & more frequently express what I am very sure we both feel, a good deal of affection for each other, we should enjoy more happiness than usually falls to the lot of mortals."

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ingto]n, July 8, 1810.

Williamina [Ridgely] was very ill with cholera infantum for one day, but Dr. [George] Monro checked it completely. Mr. [Thomas] Davy is in town. He seems to greatly admire Betsy [Elizabeth M.] Loockerman. Expects her husband soon.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.9cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington], July 12, 1810.

Is sorry [Charles George Ridgely] still has daily chills. Hopes his father will bring him on his next visit. Williamina [Ridgely] has been ill again, but is better. Refers to "the probability of Mungo Park's return."

A. L. [S. inferred] 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, Aug. 5, 1810.

Hopes her granddaughter [Williamina Ridgely] is improving. Consoles her daughter with the reminder that if the child should die she will be spared the troubles and sorrows of life. Is glad to hear [Mrs. Ann M. Ridgely] is so much better after her severe illness. Offers to come down if she can be of any service. Mrs. [Thomas] Read looks ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, [Wilmington], Aug. 8, 1810.

Has been distressed by [Williamina Ridgely's] illness but is reassured by the latest news of her. Is sorry that Sally "should be plagued with black creatures" at this time. Cautions against giving them money if it can be avoided, though "your papa sends down ten dollars." Mentions Mrs. . . . Goldsbery [Goldsborough], Mrs. . . . Mannor, Ann Caverly, and Betsy Alston. [Dr.] William McKee adds a note inquiring about "Bishop's bond."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 20.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from N. G. WILLIAMSON, Wilmington, Aug. 13, 1810.

Authorizes Mr. Ridgely to close his business relative to [Joseph] Miller's estate with [Samuel] McLane, doing "whatever is just, fair and honorable." Mr. [John] Fisher should also be consulted. Refers to [John] Patten's estate.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.5cm. x 20cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH McKEE, Wilmington, ante Oct. 14, 1810].

Sympathizes deeply with her sister's grief, but reminds her that her baby [Williamina Ridgely] has been removed "to everlasting joy and felicity." There is much illness, particularly malaria, in Wilmington. Hopes Sally will come up after election. Brother [John Banning] leaves tomorrow for Princeton, [N. J.]. Mama [Mrs. William McKee] promises Mrs. Wheel Bank [Wiltbank] her spectacles as soon as she can get to town.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 24cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKee, Wilm[ington], Oct. 14, 1810.

Is greatly concerned over Sally's health. Hopes she will soon be well enough to stand the trip to Wilmington. Regrets permitting [servant] Betsy . . . to go to Maryland "though I pity her, so distant from her friends; I suppose she will not see her mother for two years." Has not been able to get the spectacles for Mrs. W[iltbank], but has heard of "another store that keeps them."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmington, Oct. 21, 1810.

Worries about Sally [Ridgely], still dispirited and ill with malaria. Reproves her husband for failure to write. Mentions Betsy Alston and Dr. Monroe [George Munro].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Oct. 22, 1810.

Felt so ill during his trip home he stopped at Dr. [Abraham] Ridgely's in Smyrna for a dose of laudanum to help him finish the journey. Could barely keep in court the following two days but improved after taking two long horseback rides. Dined at the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely], with Messrs. [Kensley] Johns, [James A.] Bayard, . . . Loockerman and [William] Morris. Charles George [Ridgely] started to school to Mr. [Stephen] Sykes "today."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington], Oct. 25, [1810].

Is still very wretched, though better than she was. Is worried about Henry's health. Hopes his mother is improving. Refers to [Mr.] . . . Bell and Betsy Alston.

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Oct. 26, 1810.

Was greatly worried to learn from her mother that Sally has been worse, but is somewhat relieved by receiving her own letter. Reminds her that exercise, "high living" and the use of wine are necessary for one in her condition. Is stiff from a fall from his horse suffered while riding to "Fox Hall," but is not injured. Complains of "worthless workmen" and the endlessness of the work. Reproves her for leaving letters about "for the public eye." [Mrs. Ann M. Ridgely's] condition is unchanged. Has [Maximilien, duc de] Sully's *Memoirs*. Mentions the McKee family, Betsy Alston and Charles George [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.4cm. x 19.9cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wilm[ingto]n, Oct. 28, 1810.

Remains low-spirited and weak. Is anxious to see her husband, but does not feel able to assume the management of her household and realizes his recent fall from a horse prevents him from visiting her. Mrs. [William] McKee is in poor health. She cannot find the spectacles for Mrs. . . . Wiltbank. Inquires for the family. Is pleased that Henry purchased Sully's *Memoirs* for her.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ingto]n, Nov. 1, [1810].

Sally is worse again, having taken a heavy cold after she was apparently recovering. Wishes her daughter had her own horses and carriage, since she fears the McKees' team so much she receives no benefit from riding behind them.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Nov. 12, 1810.

Stood "beating and thundering at the doors and ringing the bell" for nearly an hour before rousing anyone at Brinton's Tavern in Wilmington. Took the 5:30 A. M. stage, which came

only as far as Cantwell's Bridge. Finally "an old crazy carriage and little broken-down poney" were secured for him and Dr. [James] Sykes, while Nicholas Dorsey was bundled into the mail chaise. Is worried about Sally's health and eager for her return.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.8cm. x 19.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from EDWARD WORRELL, Wilmington, Nov. 13, 1810.

Deeply regrets his failure to accept some specie for deposit at Mr. Ridgely's request, for he did not understand the circumstances. The situation has been misrepresented by those interested in "the New Bank." Hopes the incident has not marred the "harmony" that had existed between officials of the Bank of Delaware and [the Farmers Bank]. Alludes to Dr. James Sykes.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Nov. 16, 1810.

Is relieved that Sally is improving. Has no objection to her purchasing the coat if she can do so from funds now in her hands, but he at present lacks cash even for his taxes. John Many recently married Betsy Cummins. [Negroes] Margaret and Stephen have been ill. Alludes to members of the family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington], Nov. 18, 1810.

Is now strong enough to walk without support, but is discouraged by the recurrence of malarial symptoms. Worries about Charles George's [Ridgely] frequent illnesses and fears he will "never have good health long at a time." Their expected child will occasion some necessary expenses. Speaks of other small bills. Is sorry the servants are ill.

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ington], Nov. 21, 1810.

Feels much better than when she wrote before, and hopes soon to leave her room. Refuses B[etsy] Alston's request for her riding dress, but suggests that her husband get her "a common dark dress." Hears [Dr. Arnold] Naudain and Miss [Mary M.] Schee are to be married "this evening." Remarks that it is their own anniversary. Wishes her horses and carriage could be sent up, for she cannot safely ride "with Papa's horses."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, at DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE'S, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 21, 1810.

John [Banning] and Molly Alford have arrived. Was disappointed to receive no letter. Urges his wife to be careful of her health, exercise and diet both for her own sake and the [unborn] child's. Advises "free use of the juice of the grape." [Negroes] Stephen and Margaret are at work again. Speaks of their son [Charles George Ridgely]. Wonders why Sally signed a recent letter "your discouraged wife."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 15.7cm. x 19.8cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Nov. 23, 1810.

Was pleased with Sally's recent affectionate letters and hopes she will continue writing at every opportunity. Is anxious for her return. Though disappointed not to have paid her a week end visit, fears he could not have reached Dover again in time for court over the dreadful roads. Sends five terrapines, which, having been kept eight or ten days, are now fit for use. Instructs his wife to have her "head well washed in brandy," which should remain on some time, before exchanging her cap for the wig. Also advises having her hair powdered after the brandy shampoo. Will send the carriage if the weather seems fit for its use. Encloses \$20.00.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.8cm. x 19.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Nov. 24, 1810.

Wants her wig sent up, for she fears to exchange her heavy night caps for a light cap until she receives it. Feels "cowardly" at the thought of leaving her room and will not yet attempt it. Her mother is better. Is growing homesick.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Nov. 27, 1810.

Cautions her husband about taking cold during court sessions. Regrets that he could not pay her the planned visit but appreciates his intention. Refers to Dr. [William] McKee's recent trip to Dover. Willingly foregoes use of the carriage, but needs her wig. Grows anxious to be home.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

[HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Wilmington], Dec. 1, 1810.

Is sorry to have missed a mail, for she would not willingly give her husband extra worry during court. Appreciates the terrapines. Hopes to go home the next time Henry comes. Reminds him to bring the peaches his mother prepared for Mrs. McKee. Mentions Betsy [Alston] and B[etsy] Alford.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S WITHER-SPOON, Wilmington, Dec. 1, 1810.

Sends a statement of the fees and other costs in the "cases of the h[ei]rs of Charlotte Taylor vs. W[illia]m Hill Wells" and twelve others, with comment on the case.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, near Wilmington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY and H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Dec. 3, 1810.

Charles George [dictates] a letter, expressing the hope his mother is better and will soon be home. He needs new clothes, for his aunt [Mary Morris] says he looks too shabby to accompany his father to Wilmington. Refers to his grandmother [Mrs. William McKee] and Cousin Betsy [Alston].

Henry hopes his wife may be able to accompany him home. Complains of the weather, a bad cold, and being so busy it is sometimes impossible to write. Hopes Sally will send a letter by every mail for he feels "hurt and slighted" when she fails to do so.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ington], Dec. 4, [1810].

Her mother [Mrs. William] McKee is painfully ill of "bilious cholic." She herself is much better. Asks when to expect her husband. Needs half a yard of cambric for "little caps for the two Betsey's to work."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, c/o DR. [WILLIAM] McKEE, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Dec. 5, 1810.

Is delighted that Sally is so much improved and hopes to accompany him home. Court will adjourn tomorrow, but the roads are so bad he cannot be sure when he will reach Wilming-

ton. Got material for a greatcoat for [Charles George] who is very anxious to go with him. Fears, however, that he cannot take him because of bad travelling conditions.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.4cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S WITHER-SPOON, Wilmington, Dec. 13, 1810.

Repeats his request for payment of costs in the suit of the h[ei]rs of Charlotte Taylor vs. William H. Wells and others.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S CAD-WALADER, Philad[elphia], Jan. 14, 1811.

Briefly summarizes the statement he had sent his aunt [Mrs. Ann M. Ridgely] before he learned of her death. Speaks of the Bank of United States stock she owned.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JACOB STOUT, Tanyard, [Little Creek Hd., Kent County, Del.], Feb. 6, 1811.

Vigorously protests the rudeness with which he was notified when illness prevented him from attending to two notes at the [Farmers] Bank before they fell due. Complains of Mr. . . . Wilson and Mr. [Peter] Caverly. Alludes to a quarrel between himself and Dr. [James] Sykes over family matters. Mentions Peter Stout, [deceased].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 20cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilmin[gto]n, April 18, 1811.

Cautions Sally about her health. Betsy Alston's uncle took her "to Conference" with him, but she will return soon. Speaks of clothing and a quilt prepared for Betsy Alford, and of money belonging to Betsy . . .

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

CHARLES LEE, [Alexandria, Va.], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], April 24, 1811.

Inquires about the title to certain Washington lots belonging to the Dulany heirs. Discusses their sale as it affects the advantage and final settlement of [Walter] Dulany's estate. Mentions "the heirs of Dr. . . . Stewart."

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from DAN[IEL] BLANEY, New Castle, [Del.], April 26, 1811.

Has entered the judgment requested by Mr. Ridgely. Refers to a suit between Daniel Mifflin et al and Jonathan Caldwell. Mentions Charles Anderson.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 19.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, June 20, 1811.

Arrived after a pleasant ride, which the baby [Abraham Ridgely] stood well. Speaks gratefully of Mr. . . . Lowber. Hopes her husband and C[harles] G[eorge Ridgely] can come next week.

A. L. [S. inferred] 1 p. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, June 30, 1811.

Is greatly distressed because [Negro] Stephen has run away. Learned from the McKee servants that he intended going to Philadelphia and then on to New York to join his father. Fears he cannot be recovered, but . . . Horsey is writing to Nathaniel Sykes, who lives in New York, to watch for him. Believes [Negro] Margaret can describe the father.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 17cm. x 21.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, July 3, 1811.

Wishes, for the sake of Abraham's health, to remain a week longer than she planned. Implies, with disapproval, that her husband is not trying to recover Stephen. Thinks his "ungrateful conduct" should be punished. Hopes soon to have Dr. [James] Tilton's and Dr. [George] Munro's bills.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, July 7, 1811.

Has received the doctors' bills, \$10.00 from Dr. Tilton and \$30.00 from Dr. Munro. Abraham is well, but still small, and he feels the excessive heat.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, Wilm[ington], Aug. 11, 1811.

Thought it best not to send Sally's silver until someone could take charge of it in the stage. Alludes to a reputed engagement between John [Banning] and Maria [Edmondson]. If John were older and prepared to take his place as "master of a family" she would not oppose the match should they wish it. Gossips about Betsy Loockerman, who wrote that she was about to be married and leave for Bethlehem, [Penna.]. Prays that Abraham [Ridgely] "may escape that dreadful complaint." Betsy Alford inquires about her wig.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from E[LIZABETH, MRS. WILLIAM] McKEE, [Wilmington], Sept. 15, 1811.

Is worried about Sally. Gives the details of a trip from Dover. Mentions John [Banning], Betsy McKee, S. Moody, Betsy Alston and Abraham [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZA[BETH McKEE], Wilm[ingto]n, Oct. 24, [1811].

Mother [Mrs. William McKee] is rapidly recovering. John [Banning] arrived home sooner than expected and is now writing to "his Ferry Girl." The chairs are ready to ship; the paper will be sent at the first opportunity; and the cap, which she designed herself when she could find no suitable pattern, is nearly finished.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from PETER CONRAD, 124 N. 3rd St., Phila[delphia], Oct. 26, 1811.

Wishes information about Nathan Hoff's reported acknowledgment of his debt. Identifies himself as a brushmaker.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 23.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from RICHARD BASSETT, Wilmington, Oct. 26, 1811.

Empowers Mr. Ridgely to take action to secure settlement of a debt between the estate of Benjamin Chew, deceased, and James Battell, proceeding, if necessary, under a judgment long since obtained. Mentions Benjamin Chew, Jr., and Mr. Ridgely's own election to Congress.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilm[ingto]n, Nov. 8, 1811.

Arrived safely. The boys are well, and Charles George's conduct is improving. Found her mother [Mrs. William McKee] worse than she expected. Misses her husband greatly, and begs for letters by every mail.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.3cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Nov. 10, 1811.

Reproves Sally for tardiness in writing to him. Expects full and frequent letters from her. Regrets that her trip to Wilmington proved necessary. Warns of the dangerous condition of the road between Dr. McKee's and the town. Describes in detail his trip from Dover to Washington. Mr. [U. S. Senator Outerbridge] Horsey was his companion and, with Messrs. [Thomas R.] Gold and [Harmanus] Bleacher from New York, shares his mess. They plan to move shortly to more adequate quarters. Left his card at the President's home and called upon the Vice-President [George Clinton], Mrs. [James] Madison and Mme. [Jerome] Bonaparte.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Wilmington, Nov. 15, 1811.

Came to Wilmington with [servant] "Jem" as driver and Ann Caverly and Betsy Jester as companions. Left Charles George [Ridgely] with Mary [Morris]. Asks about Mrs. [James] Madison, who is, she understands, an accomplished woman. Is worried about her mother. Hopes her husband will not become too dissipated among "the gay amusements of Washington." Would feel a little jealous if he were perfectly happy away from home.

A. L. [S. inferred] 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.4cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Nov. 17, 1811.

At their brief meeting he thought Mrs. [James] Madison pleasant, though "large and fat." Doubts she ever possessed "that delicacy of form and manners which man so much admires in the softer sex." Did not care for her sister Mrs. [George] Steptoe] Washington, widow of George Washington's nephew. Finds Washington the "wilderness" [John] Randolph called it, and devoid of "gay amusements" to compensate for his absence from home. Refers to his children, and to the ill health of Dr. and Mrs. [William] McKee. Has purchased Walter Scott's works in five volumes for his wife.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Wilmington, Nov. 21, 1811.

Plans to leave for home in a few days, though her mother shows little improvement. Mr. [John] Davis is back from Litchfield. Believes there is a very deep affection between him and [her sister Betsy McKee]. The engagement between John [Banning] and Miss [Maria] Edmonson has been broken, to the relief of the family. Abraham [Ridgely] has been ill. Fears his aunt will spoil Charles George [Ridgely]. Alludes to the contents of her husband's letter.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Nov. 26, 1811.

The two Ridgely children and William Morris have all contracted whooping cough from the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] servants. Charles George [Ridgely] has had to be kept home from school, but she hopes he can soon return. Mrs. [William] McKee remains critically ill. The household is running satisfactorily. Andrew Caldwell has inquired about certain militia papers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Nov. 28, 1811.

Sends a newspaper reporting an encounter [at Tippecanoe] between Governor [William Henry] Harrison and the Indians. The American commander is being severely criticized, though the official account of the battle has not yet appeared. Writes hastily while a member [of Congress] is speaking.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS. WILLIAM McKEE and MISS ELIZABETH McKEE], Wilm[ington], Dec. 1, [1811].

Mrs. McKee writes that she would be delighted to see Sally if it were not for the danger in bringing the baby. Elizabeth completes the note, saying their mother is extremely weak but seems slightly improved. "[Mr. John] Davis is now with us."

A. N. [S. inferred] 1 p. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 1, 1811.

Hopes their sons will not be seriously ill and that her mother will soon recover. Mr. [Gabriel] Duval has been appointed [Federal] Judge in "our district." Thinks Mr. [C. A.] Rodney should have been chosen and credits the report he has resigned

as Attorney General. Mr. [James A.] Bayard is in Washington. Gives directions for locating the militia records his wife inquired about, and for the care of hay and live stock. Mentions "Fox Hall."

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Dec. 2, 1811.

The children are no worse. She plans to keep Charles George [Ridgely] at home for fear of spreading the infection. Discusses farm matters, mentioning "Fox Hall," her own property near Camden, [Del.], and the planting of peach stones, English and "white" walnuts. Charles George [Ridgely] reads a chapter [of the Bible] daily and learns his catechism. Thinks \$7.00 a hundred too high for pork. Has purchased potatoes for the winter. Hopes her husband will scold her in his next letter and not when he reaches home for having had both front doors painted yellow. Is pleased with her new chairs. Looks forward to seeing him "in twenty-four days."

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20.4cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Dec. 6, 1811.

Her trip from Wilmington was made between early morning and about seven in the evening. Moonlight made the latter part of the trip safe. Worried when Mrs. . . . Goldsborough and Miss . . . McCallmont continued a journey alone after their horse had once bolted. Dreads "the fate of poor Polly Taylor" when two ladies ride unaccompanied. Is disappointed that [C. A.] Rodney was not appointed judge. Supposes he resigned as Attorney General in pique. Discusses farm problems, and construction at "Fox Hall." Mentions Abraham Goldsborough, [Negroes] Andrew, Joe and Jem, and . . . Kelly. The condition of the children and her mother remains unchanged.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 8, 1811.

The children are better and Charles George [Ridgely], about to return to school. The bookseller has delivered Bigland's *View of the World*. Enjoyed what she has read. Sees so few visitors she hears no news. Is having trouble with the fences of the "ten-acre lot." . . . Hillyard called. He talked much of Miss . . . Miligan. Refers to "his sister Mrs. [Martin W.] Bates." Mary [Morris] is not well.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 8, 1811.

Cannot understand the delay in the mails. Is willing for his wife to use her judgment in ordering pork and having the doors painted. Is grateful the boys have light cases of whooping cough. Sends a message to John [Banning] in regard to business transacted for him. Mr. [C. A.] Rodney resigned as Attorney General because he felt failure to offer him the vacant judgeship in his home district was a reflection on his fitness for either office. He has returned to Wilmington. Encourages Charles' [George Ridgely] obedient and studious conduct.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZA[BETH McKEE], Wilm[ington], Dec. 12, [1811].

Mother's [Mrs. William McKee] attacks of nausea have ceased but she has taken a severe cold. She has finally allowed her physician, Dr. [George] Munro, to consult Dr. [Benjamin] Rush. Mentions Mrs. . . . Wilson and certain of her relatives. Ordered a bonnet.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], Dec. 12, 1811.

Comments on the delay of the mails. Her husband's absence is making her conscious of the depth of her affection for him. Abraham [Ridgely] is still weak from the whooping cough. Ann Lowber and Presly Allee are married. "Kitty Goldsborough's husband, young . . . Patterson," is dead. The fences are repaired.

A. L. [S. inferred] 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.3cm

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from BESS [MISS ELIZABETH McKEE], and [MRS. WILLIAM McKEE], Wilm[ington], Dec. 14, [1811].

[Mrs. McKee] reassures her daughter about her condition. Dr. [Benjamin] Rush's opinion has not yet come. [Joseph] B[ringhurst] the postmaster, in whose diagnoses her daughters have great confidence, considers her continued yellowness a favorable symptom.

Sally's sister adds a note confirming their mother's report of improvement. She herself has "caught Abraham's [Ridgely] whooping cough."

A. L. [S. by Miss McKee only], 2 pp., 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 15, 1811.

Describes his new quarters in a large house next to the Capitol. Pays \$10.00 weekly rent, with wood and candles included. Charles Goldsborough and Mr. [John] Baker, congressman from Virginia, have rooms near his. Declined his first invitation to dine with the President, because it was received only the day before the dinner, but has accepted a subsequent one. Will also dine soon with the British minister. Attended "the President's Levee" where there were many guests. "Mrs. Madison performed her part, I thought, extremely well." Still finds Washington life no substitute for home. Abraham Goldsborough's stock should now be kept off the Ridgely meadow for fear of injury to the grass. Mentions the children, his sister Mary [Morris], the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely], Mr. [James A.] Bayard, Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey and Mr. [Peter] Caverly. Asks when the directors of the Farmers Bank will meet. Hopes his wife enjoys Bigland's *View of the World* to which he has subscribed.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY, Dover], Dec. 15, 1811.

News from her mother [Mrs. William McKee] is increasingly discouraging. Dr. George Munro plans to consult Dr. [Benjamin] Rush. Her husband's affectionate letters are her one consolation. Hopes he still plans to come home for Christmas. Discusses Mr. [C. A.] Rodney's resignation [as U. S. Attorney General] and the rumor [William] Pinckney will succeed him. "Dover is as dull and uninteresting as usual." John [Banning] will go home in a few days.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, House of Representatives, Washington, from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 16, 1811.

Appreciates papers and documents his brother has sent. Expects war as a result of the Report of the Committee of Foreign Relations. Caustically criticizes the Administration and Congress for their handling of the affair. Thinks "we are made the Dupes of France for our own destruction." Speculates on the causes and consequences of [Caesar A.] Rodney's resignation [as U. S. Attorney General]. Mentions a four-inch snowfall, Mr. [Andrew] Barratt's candidacy for the [State] Senate against . . . Davis, and the recent marriage of Presly Allee to Ann Lowber.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 17cm. x 21cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 19, [1811].

Is very anxious about Abraham [Ridgely] and about Sally's own cold. Did not much enjoy the parties at the President's and the British Minister's. Hopes the rumor that "Mr. . . . Patterson, the husband of Kitty Goldsborough," is dead may prove untrue. Gouverneur Morris, of New York, and his wife have joined his mess. Assures his own wife of his deep affection.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 20, 1811.

Expects her husband in a week. Is glad he is "at last comfortably fixed," and that he enjoyed "Mrs. [James] Maddison's Leveé." Is also gratified that he still prefers his wife and children to "the gay and splendid amusements of Washington." Gives the dates of Directors and Stockholders meetings of the Farmers Bank.

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Dec. 22, 1811.

Begs his wife to "bear with fortitude and resignation . . . having the sole care of our family and children." Will be home at the earliest possible moment, but must arrange his leave of absence so he can attend the meeting of the Farmers Bank directors. Dr. Worthington says Mr. . . . Patterson is dead. He had been in poor health since before his wedding, but died suddenly. Comments on invitations from the French and British ministers. Sends greetings to the family and promises a prompt answer to the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] letter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS ELIZABETH McKEE], Wilm[ington], Dec. 22, [1811].

Their mother's [Mrs. William McKee] weakness increases. Dr. [Benjamin] Rush thinks she is suffering from a liver disorder and has suggested a new prescription. Has been unable to secure her cousin's bonnet, first because of the milliner's absence and then because of her inability to secure the needed silk velvet. [Mrs. McKee] wants a piece of homespun sent up by stage.

A. L. [S. inferred] 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Dec. 27, 1811.

Is bitterly disappointed that her husband's return is delayed. Needs "19 hundred weight" of pork and may have to pay \$7.00 per hundred. Asks money for household and farm expenses. Her mother's strength is rapidly failing. The Ridgely and Morris families dined with Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] on Christmas. Abraham [Ridgely] is better and Charles George [Ridgely] is entirely well.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS ELIZABETH McKEE, Wilmington], Jan. 2, 1812.

Writes for her sister to come home if it is in any way possible, for their mother [Mrs. William McKee] is losing strength steadily. Will attend to the bonnet order. "The spitting boxes . . . and chafering dishes" cost \$3.50.

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 3, 1812.

Mr. Ridgely's [seven-year-old] son writes that he hopes to learn to write well under the instruction of the writing master soon expected to start classes in Dover. Repeats the story of Achilles as given in Lempriere's *Dictionary*. [Probably dictated or copied.]

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS ELIZABETH McKEE], Wilm[ingto]n, Jan. 5, [1812].

Their mother's weakness increases rapidly and the family has almost lost hope of her recovery. Begs her sister to reconsider her decision and come home. Dr. [Thomas] Read also thinks she should do so.

A. N. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Jan. 17, 1811 [1812].

Has arrived home safely, but her "spirits are very much depressed" by her mother's death. Remarks that her husband is "doubly dear to me now." Abraham [Ridgely] is not well. Betsy [McKee] appears in better spirits.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 19, 1812.

Is relieved that his wife and infant son arrived safely from Wilmington. Hopes they reached home before the storm. Welcomes his sister-in-law Betsy [McKee], suggesting that she spend the winter in Dover. He escorted Miss Rebecca Read from Wilmington to Baltimore. Reaching the Susquehannah [River] after nightfall, they learned the boat was icebound on the opposite shore, so they ventured to cross on a rude sled drawn at a run by a young guide. By lantern light he picked their way over the dangerous ice without mishap, though they sometimes thought they heard it cracking beneath them, and were forced to walk as they approached the pier. When they reached Baltimore about four the next morning, they located Miss Read's friends with difficulty because of confusion between the names Cooke and Cocke. Reached Washington the following afternoon without further incident.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 20, 1812.

Is distressed and hurt by her husband's failure to write "at a time when I need all your consolation and tenderness." Abraham [Ridgely] is better.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 23, 1812.

Sally's recent letter has made him uneasy about her health and Abraham's. Urges her to accept [her mother's death] with resignation, assuring her of his own deep love. Mentions the Chancellor [Nichols Ridgely], Mary [Morris] and his own children.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 26, 1812.

Assures his wife that his tardiness in writing after arrival in Washington was due to no lack of affection or negligence. On Tuesday he was exhausted from his strenuous trip, Thursday was uncertain where to address her, and on Sunday he wrote at length. Comments on "some beautiful lines by [Thomas] Campbell" he had recently heard sung. Speaks of Charles George [Ridgely], his own brother, sister, sister-in-law [Elizabeth

McKee], Abraham Goldsborough, Mr. Calley (carpenter), and [Sylvester] Purnel. Gives directions for work at "Fox Hall" and for the sale of wheat, with directions for the necessary book-keeping.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, Jan. 29, 1812.

Was relieved to learn of her husband's safe arrival. Misses him deeply. "Your little favorite James Caverly" died suddenly on Saturday of an undiagnosed illness. At his funeral Betsy McKee was "seized with a violent histerick fit." Thinks she should be privately married very soon for she needs constant, tender companionship [since her mother's death].

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 2, 1812.

Worries about the failure to hear from home when the long-delayed mail arrived from Dover. Sympathizes with Mr. and Mrs. [Peter] Caverly in the loss of their youngest son. Sends a newspaper containing "some pretty lines" on the death of Col. . . . Davis [at Tippecanoe], and "an account of the Panharmonicon of London and of New York."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 2, 1812.

Writes later the same day, acknowledging a letter from his wife. Wishes he could be with her to help her reconcile herself to her sorrow. Hopes Betsy [Elizabeth McKee] will remain in Dover. Agrees that she should be privately married in the near future, suggests their home as a suitable place and invites the bride and groom to spend the winter there.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington], from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY, Dover], Jan. [Feb.] 2, 1812.

The need for constantly cheering her sister Betsy McKee has kept her very busy, but has proved a help in bearing her own grief. Betsy [McKee] and Mr. [John] Davis will soon be married if Dr. [William] McKee consents. The Legislature is still in session. Mr. [James M.] Broom, while in Dover on Wilmington Bank business, brought her *Christian Researches in Asia* by [Rev. Claudius] Buchanan, whose sermon *Star of the East* the Ridgelys both enjoyed. [Her brother] John [Banning]

inquires about "the thousand dollar certificate." Sold the wheat for \$1.86 per bushel. There have been many deaths in and near Dover, principally among the married women. C[harles] G[eorge Ridgely] is memorizing the poem sent in his father's letter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 4, 1812.

Expresses his affection for and appreciation of his wife. Refers to an enclosed letter from her brother [John Banning], now at their home. Hopes his sister-in-law is still in Dover. Further reflection has not changed his opinion of the wisdom or perfect propriety of [Miss McKee's] marrying at once. Will approve any wedding arrangements that suit his wife. Wishes her to tactfully remind John [Banning] that he misspelled "Ridgely" when addressing him recently.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Washington], from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 6, 1812.

Asks advice about selling 60 bushels of wheat from [James] Clayton. A price of \$1.90 is offered at Camden, [Del.], and \$2.00 at Smyrna, [Del.]. Worries about the time Charles George [Ridgely] is losing from study, for Mr. [Stephen] Sykes' school has been closed for four weeks; "you know the cause." John Lowber of Smyrna is to be married to a Miss . . . Wilson this evening. Mrs. [James] Sykes is ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 8, 1812.

Though she has him read to her twice daily and "learn six words and meanings in the dictionary every day" she is much concerned because Charles George [Ridgely] has had only a few weeks at school all winter, due to his own illness and [his teacher's] intemperance. Asks about adjournment of Congress and the chances of war with England. Mr. [John] Davis is ill following exposure on the way to Wilmington, when he mistook the Middletown Road for Cantwell's Bridge Road. Gives further news about preparations for his marriage to her sister. Mentions Dr. [William] McKee, John Banning and Mr. and Mrs. . . . Gill. S[ylvester] Purnel complains of the dwelling on the farm he tenants.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 9, 1812.

If Sally [Ridgely] knew the pleasure her letters give, he is sure she would write more regularly. Speaks of attending Gen. [Thomas] Blount's funeral. Complains of writing in a "cold room without fire," though he has repeatedly ordered one laid. Gives directions for selling the wheat at [tenant] James Clayton's and for recording the transaction. Asks his brother to have Samuel E. Parke, of Smyrna, [Del.], exchange other currency for a bill of the Bank of Newburn (New Bern, N. Carolina) he cannot pass.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 10, 1812.

Describes, at her husband's repeated request, a trip home from Wilmington some time previous. Arrived ahead of the snowstorm because they stopped only for "a cold snack" instead of a dinner at Cantwell's Bridge. Enjoyed a visit with Charity [Driver] while Mr. [Matthew] Driver was in Philadelphia. Has heard "a flying report" of a duel between Richard Bayard and "young Milligan," both of Princeton College, over politics and of the grave injury of Richard. Appreciates her husband's thoughtfulness in advising her brother. Comments that "it is too great a sacrifice for a family to be separated from its head too long."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. DANIEL] LOWBER, Wilmington, Feb. 11, [1812].

Offers [her cousin] consolation upon Mrs. [William] McKee's death. Regrets not having written sooner. Has been ill. Promises to visit in the spring. Sends regards to E[lizabeth] Alston.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 13, 1812.

Notes that she has written by every mail lately. She enjoys doing so if her letters please her husband. Mr. [James] Clayton has informed her he intends to move from the farm he rents. Marcy Smithers, son of Nathaniel, has applied for it. Wants instructions about the sale of wheat.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 13, 1812.

Does not know when Congress will adjourn and now fears it will not be as soon as he had hoped. Any motion for adjournment must come from a Democrat to succeed. Inquires the price of corn. Wishes to promptly repay the sum [Peter] Caverly advanced on stock in the Farmers Bank. Regrets that Charles George [Ridgely] is missing so much time at school. Thinks he should read aloud four times daily, twice each from *The Bible* and from *Robinson Crusoe*.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH [McKEE], Wilm[ingto]n, Feb. 15, [1812].

Her father's household is now surprisingly well regulated. Was forced to advertise two colored boys for sale as punishment for stealing. Papa [Dr. William McKee] "is quite companionable and perfectly himself." He has agreed to come in the fall to make his home with her, for she has consented to be married next Thursday. Her fiancé, Mr. [John] Davis, has been ill but is now better and has gone to Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], Feb. 16, 1812.

Feels hurt at receiving so few letters since she herself has lately been unusually punctual in writing. Discusses the sale of wheat, an accident to one of the oxen used for drawing wood during the recent cold spell, and the cost of mourning for herself and her sister. Did not deposit \$57.60 received for wheat, but kept it for household expenses. Withdrew \$75.00. Hopes she has not been extravagant for she is trying hard to be "a frugal wife," but fears she does "not understand the art." E[lizabeth] McKee's marriage will take place next week.

A. L. [S. inferred] 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 18, 1812.

Acknowledges receipt of James Clayton's statement of intention to move and, though it is not a legal and proper notice, he will not object. Carefully outlines the terms under which young Marcy Smithers may occupy the farm for the ensuing year. Explains a previous commitment to William Carrow for the season following. Gives directions for the sale of grain. Asks for a copy of John Wood's account made from his ledger. Tells his wife how much her letters mean to him.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 19, 1812.

Quotes the price of corn at Camden, [Del.], refers to their family finances, and complains of having the responsibility of the household so long on her shoulders. "The pleasure I shall feel at again seeing you will compensate for our long separation." There was "a runaway match" on Sunday between John Manlove and "one of . . . Lafferty's daughters." The father was much displeased. E[lizabeth] McKee is to be married to Mr. [John] Davis tomorrow, and in the fall Dr. [William] McKee will go to live with them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 21, 1812.

James Clayton has delivered Mr. Ridgely's [rent] wheat to "R. & A. McClyments." Marcy Smithers has not followed up his application to rent the farm. Daniel George, however, is very anxious to have it. Asks for further directions.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 23, 1812.

Repeats the business content of her last letter, adding that she has since sold 93 bushels of wheat at \$1.90 per bushel; "the whole amount is 98 dollars 30 cents." Thomas Macomb is deranged upon recovery from a violent attack of convulsions lasting several days. Is very sorry, for "he was an uncommonly amiable man." Comments on [Outerbridge] Horsey's intended marriage to Miss [Eliza] Lea [Lee]. "This gloomy town affords no society nor indeed any variety, and the frequent deaths . . . tend to depress the spirits more. You must not scold at my . . . finding fault with your favorite place, I do endeavour to feel an attachment to it for your sake, but indeed, indeed it is a miserable place."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 23, 1812.

Is "most heartily sick of Washington." If Congress stays in session until summer, hopes to bring Sally down in May. Fears she will soon tire of the city. Discusses the sale of corn. Explains the advantage of depositing all receipts for grain sales in the bank. Reminds his wife that the knowledge of business

practices she is now gaining may some day prove invaluable. Wishes files of the *Aurora* and *United States Gazette* saved intact. Prefers the peach and apple brandy be left untouched until it ripens properly. Wishes his sister-in-law [Betsy McKee] happiness in her marriage.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

CHARLES GEORGE RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 23, 1812.

Directs his [seven-year-old] son to write him "a letter every week or two" containing all the news of Dover and its neighborhood. Emphasizes the importance of a sound education for a useful life, and the value of "corresponding well," an art learned only by practice. Describes the [re]launching of U. S. S. *Enterprise* at the Navy Yard. Tells of a drowning that occurred during the ceremony. Asks the child to find two misspelled words.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 26, 1812.

Daniel George is willing to meet all other conditions in regard to renting the farm if he may hold it as long as he proves a satisfactory tenant. Asks about the report that Congress will adjourn briefly in March. Has had no further word about her sister's marriage. Illness has caused Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] to hold court at his own home for two days.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RID[GELY], Washington, Mar. 1, 1812.

Thinks [Marcy] Smithers has forfeited his option on the farm by his failure to give a prompt answer to notice about it. The place should be offered to William Carrow on the same terms; and, if he declines, Daniel George may have it. Is sorry the Chancellor has been ill. Asks his wife to explain her statement that she sold 93 bushels of wheat at \$1.90 per bushel for a total of \$98.30. Mentions their children.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 1, 1812.

Acknowledges a letter from his father. Hopes he can soon make up for his loss of time at school last winter. Apologizes for this "first attempt in letter writing."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 23.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 23 [Mar. 1], 1812.

Has kept a careful record of receipts of wheat from the tenants. Will have [Sylvester] Purnell's corn delivered in Camden, where the price is good. Abraham [Ridgely] is very ill. Nathaniel Smithers, Jr. declines the farm on his brother's behalf. Mentions Daniel George's application. James Warner has shattered his hand in a hunting accident. Is deeply disappointed at the delay in her husband's return.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [Mrs. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, Mar. 4, 1812.

[William] Carrow wishes to rent the farm [James] Clayton is vacating provided he may alter its arrangement and may plant flax. Has not seen [Daniel] George again, but thinks he would prove a good tenant. The wheat she sold was fifty-three bushels, not ninety-three as she wrote in haste.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Mar 5, [1812].

Misses his wife greatly. Repeats his intention of bringing his family to Washington in May should there be a long session. Refers to [Elizabeth McKee's] wedding. Mr. [John] Davis will settle in Wilmington. Edward Tilghman, with whom [John Banning] started the study of law, and Mr. . . . Winder, a relative of Dr. [William] Morris, are in Washington to plead before the Supreme Court.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Mar. 8, 1812.

Asks an immediate report on Abraham's [Ridgely] condition. Thought the letter from Charles [George Ridgely] excellent. She may rent "the Clayton Farm" to [Daniel] George or any other responsible tenant since he disapproves the changes William Carrow wishes to make in its layout. Discusses the sale of additional corn. Reminds her that any lease drawn should be dated March 1, 1812. Inquires about [Thomas] Macomb. Regrets James Warner's accident.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 8, 1812.

Has taken a bad cold while gardening. Abraham [Ridgely] is well and lively again. Recounts a gloomy dream involving her mother, her infant son, and her husband. Is sorry the Caverly family is leaving Dover, but thinks them "perfectly correct in doing so." The Bank Directors wish Mr. Ridgely were at home. Mentions the farm business. Mary McKee is visiting.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Mar. 10, 1812.

Encloses a newspaper containing an address by President [Madison] to Congress and a transcript of accompanying documents. Believes the Administration hopes to rouse public sentiment for war with England by their publication. Thinks, however, that their propaganda effect will soon wear off if war is not forced at once. Wishes the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] to have the paper when she finishes examining it. Inquires about Abraham [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 11, 1812.

Would enjoy the suggested visit to Washington in the spring and thinks it might benefit Abraham's health. Gives an account of Betsy Davis' [née McKee] wedding. Her husband [John Davis] has rented a house next door to Mr. [Caesar A.] Rodney, which though pleasantly situated she fears "is not a good stand for a lawyer." Dr. [William] McKee may join the Davises in the fall. Thinks taxes will compel their [own] family to sell both carriages. Supposes Abraham will soon lose his nurse, for she expects Betsy [Alston] to marry "Nicholson the taylor." Asks when Lent ends; she hears [Outerbridge] Horsey will marry at that time. Several callers have inquired if Mr. Ridgely will be home to attend the [State] Supreme Court.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, U. S. House of Representatives, [Washington], Mar. 12, [1812].

Cautions his wife against overexertion in the garden. Is willing to rent the farm to [Daniel] George. Is sorry to hear Mr. [Peter] Caverly will leave Dover. Asks about his plans. Is glad Mary McKee is visiting Dover. Refers to an [originally] enclosed newspaper.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 13, 1812.

Abraham [Ridgely] is entirely well. [William] Carrow surrendered his option on "the Clayton farm" and [Daniel] George has leased it. Inquires if her husband plans "to join fences with . . . Jenkins." Hears that [Thomas] Macomb has recovered. Has sold the corn delivered by both tenants. The price has fallen, due to the rumor of an embargo.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Mar. 15, 1812.

If Congress sits until summer, he plans to bring his wife to Washington in May. Believes she would enjoy it for a time but soon will be disillusioned. Tells more about the documents previously referred to, messages from Lord Liverpool to the Governor of Canada, reputedly obtained from John Henry by a bribe of \$50,000. Considers the whole affair a plot on [President] Madison's part to secure his own re-election. Will stay at his post until adjournment to help prevent a declaration of war, for he believes a vote on the issue would be very close. In response to his wife's inquiry, he has learned from his barber that Lent "will expire this day two weeks." Alludes to the expected marriage of Abraham's nurse, Betsy [Alston], to [Mr.] Nicholson. Asks about Mr. and Mrs. [John] Davis' plans, address, and Mr. Davis' given name. Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey has moved to George Town, [D. C.], the home of Miss [Eliza] L[ee].

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Mar. 15, 1812.

Has done as he asked regarding the paper containing the President's message. Is inclined to think the whole affair "an imposition," and hopes war can be avoided. Papa [Dr. William McKee] wishes a final settlement [of the Banning estate] with Mr. Ridgely and John [Banning] on March 25th. Criticizes her step-father's attitude toward John. Asks if she can sell the mule, which [slaves] Joe and Jem constantly allow to stray "out to the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely]."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Mar. 18, [1812].

George Temple, the bricklayer, wants certain information and papers from Mr. Ridgely, since he must employ other counsel in his absence. Refused an offer for "the close carriage" from

James Clayton who wanted it to move his family to their new home. Discusses corn receipts from the two farms. [Mr.] . . . Mifflin is said to think he paid her too high a price for her corn. Abraham [Ridgely] is ill again.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Mar. 19, 1812.

Without the correspondence with his wife, "this would indeed be a most dreary place." Cautions her about the dangers of "any sudden change in clothing" for herself or the boys. Directs [Daniel] George, the new tenant, to take great care of the wood and timber on the farm. Mentions his neighbor, Mr. Jenkins. Well matured radishes were served in his mess that morning at breakfast. Sends seeds of "citron melon, . . . cantalope melon, and . . . bloodred carrot" for his own family, [brother Nicholas Ridgely] and [brother-in-law] Dr. [William] Morris. Urges Charles George [Ridgely] to be studious.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from JOHN BANNING, Dover, Mar. 20, 1812.

Wishes the [Banning] estate settled while [Dr. William McKee] is in Dover on March 25, if Mr. Ridgely approves. Asks advice about having his mother's share of the lands divided by the court to facilitate renting.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 21, [1812].

Abraham [Ridgely] is improving after an illness resembling influenza, from which all the children of his age in Dover suffered. Remarks that if she and her husband had been separated by death instead of mere absence he would probably now be seeking another wife, for most of the men who became widowers about January are now courting if not remarried. A dog reported mad ran amuck several weeks ago; and, though none of the animals bitten have developed rabies, she fears for the children who "run too much at large in this place." Mr. Davis' given name is John.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Mar. 22, 1812.

Continues his attack on the Administration in the matter of the Henry documents. Suggests they are forgeries. Was pleased with his wife's comment on the affair. Their settlement with Dr. [William] McKee must await his return, and he be-

lieves it might avoid later unpleasantness if her brother [John Banning] would permit him to handle his settlement also for he doubts that either John or the Doctor knows much about proper procedure. Lowest price for the mule is \$40.00 but he hopes to obtain \$50.00. Sends several varieties of cabbage and radish seed. Mentions Cornelius Battell, papers concerning the Temple vs. Milbourne suit, and the deposition of "Edward Count de Crillon" in respect to the Henry affair.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Mar. 24, 1812.

Recounts a scandal involving "The Count Edward de Crillon," accused of being an imposter and believed a French agent in the bribing of [John] Henry. Alludes to the Vice President [George Clinton], Mme. [Jerome] Bounaparte, Miss . . . Spear, [Mr.] . . . Dailey of Massachusetts, and [Mr.] . . . Willinch. Sends a newspaper account of Dr. [Edward] Miller's death.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 25, 1812.

Is worried about Abraham's [Ridgely] health, since "he is so delicate an infant." Blames the Administration in the Henry affair. Refers to Dr. [Edward] Miller's recent death from pleurisy. John [Banning] is willing to delay the settlement until Mr. Ridgely's return. Mentions the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely], [George] Temple, the Count de Crillon, and Charles George [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Mar. 29, 1812.

Begs for more frequent letters, remarking that though he always prized his home he never knew its real value to him before this long separation, which he now feels "is too great a price for public employment." Is anxious about Abraham. Met Alexander Stuart at their mess in Washington. After the embarrassment of their unexpected meeting had passed, Mr. Stuart was very cordial. He is now "a violent federalist and has applied for a Major's commission in the new army." [British Minister] . . . Foster still entertains; "the roast beef of old England is relished here by all parties vastly more than the soup-meager of France."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

CHARLES GEORGE RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Mar. 29, 1812.

Was pleased with his son's letter and hopes for steady improvement. Inquires about his studies and reminds him he is to read several chapters in *The Bible* daily to his mother. Repeats his admonition to be studious and obedient, and warns his son to select his companions carefully.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 29, 1812.

Alludes to the political discussion aroused by "the Henry Plot," to the [bank] note exchanged by Mr. [Samuel E.] Park[e], and to the pleasure her husband's letters give. Mr. [John] Davis is reported about to become a Democrat, she supposes because that is the more popular party in New Castle County. There is a prophecy "that one third of the world will be destroyed on the 4th of June."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, U. S. House of Representatives, [Washington], Mar. 31, 1812.

Believes "an Embargo," about to be proposed by the Committee of Foreign Relation [sic], will be adopted, but is not certain. Wishes to keep the originally enclosed newspaper containing a biographical sketch of Dr. [Edward] Miller. Remains anxious about "my youngest darling" [Abraham Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, U. S. House of Representatives, [Washington], April 2, [18]12.

Is "tired of the folly and nonsense of this City" and increasingly anxious to be with "my dearest, my lovely Sally." Mr. [James A.] Bayard says Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey is to be married next week to Miss [Eliza] Lee. An important secret deliberation is in progress.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from JOHN FISHER, Dover, April 3, 1812.

Though he feels much diffidence in doing so, has decided to state his claims, "in such manner as is customary," to the [Federal] judgeship left vacant by Mr. [Gunning] Bedford's death. Asks Mr. Ridgely's support for his application, and has already

requested that of Mr. [James A.] Bayard and Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey. Wonders if Governor [Joseph] Haslet's recommendation would be useful. Seeks the appointment more freely because he knows Mr. [C. A.] Rodney would not accept it, and because he believes himself as well qualified as any other probable contender of his political party, one of whom he alludes to anonymously.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY, Dover], April 3, 1812.

Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely has proposed to live with their family. Pities her widowed sister-in-law but fears her difficult temperament would make her a very trying companion. Also points to the lack of available room while John [Banning] remains in Dover. Judge [Gunning] Bedford has left "a destitute family." Mr. [Daniel] George reports the farm he now occupies is in bad condition. Thinks he will be a good tenant. Tells of the sale of grain. Peter Caverly, Alfred Sykes, James Schee and Joseph Harper have all recently been injured. Charles George [Ridgely] was delighted at receiving a letter from his father.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, April 3, 1812.

David Loockerman has paid for the cart he purchased. She will miss Mary [McKee] who returns home tomorrow. Comments on Betsy Jester's forthcoming marriage. Asks her husband to write concerning Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely in such a style that she can read her the letter. Hates to "deny a poor widow a home" but equally dreads "having a person of her turn of mind in my family."

A. L. [S. inferred] 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, April 5, 1812.

Jokingly threatens to write no more until his wife squares the account between them in the matter of letters and begs especially for a letter by each Wednesday's mail, which always reaches Washington on Saturday. Congress has voted an embargo for ninety days over the unanimous opposition of the Federalists. Is shocked and amazed by Mr. [John] Davis' reported defection from the Federalists. Thinks the conduct of the Administration will soon "make the people of the United States federal. . . . Much less during Mr. [John] Adams' government made them democratic."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES GEORGE RIDGELY, [Dover], April 6, 1812.

Fears the timothy lot, now flourishing, will be injured by so many gathering "salad" on it. The lot is filled every day. Lists the words deliberately misspelled in his father's recent letters.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 6, 1812.

Comments on Charles George's [Ridgely] school progress. He is now cyphering, and enjoys it. Would like to purchase the silver can in Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely's possession if it is offered for sale. Attended Presbyterian Meeting twice yesterday. Fears the "Smyrna and Milford Bank," opening tomorrow, will injure "our [Farmers] Bank." Refers to Dr. [Edward] Miller's eminence as a physician. Mentions John [Banning].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, April 7, 1812.

Though he has not had time for mature consideration, he does not approve Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely's suggestion that she live with his family. Would prefer to pay her board elsewhere. Describes proceedings in the House against [Nathaniel] Rounsavale [Rounsavell], a printer who published the recent secret deliberations without authorization. Rep. [John] Smilie was also involved. Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey has invited him to Miss [Eliza] L[ee]'s [April 14] for the wedding.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from JOHN FISHER, Dover, April 7, 1812.

Describes the opening of the books of the new Commercial Bank at Milford, where people literally scrambled to subscribe for stock, where men against whom "*Dick Corker* could not in seven years collect for plaintiffs five dollars" were buying liberally, and where "old Johnny Read" was unable to get a single share though he brought \$2000 in specie. Hears the scene was repeated at the Smyrna branch. Mr. Ridgely's warning of the prospective embargo was ignored as an interested effort to cripple the new venture. Inquires about the judgeship. Has obtained Gov. [Joseph] Haslet's recommendation. Is amazed at reports that Mr. [C. A.] Rodney may accept the post, in view of statements he but recently made. Mentions [Mr.] Pettigrew, John Mitchell, [Mr.] Biddle, [Mr.] Atkins, [Mr.] Peterkin and Spencer Williams, all of Milford, and Sheriff [Cornelius] Battell.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, April 8, 1812.

Insists that she has written regularly twice a week. It is reported that there will be war with England immediately after expiration of the ninety-day embargo. Charles George [Ridgely] has been ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, April 10, 1812.

Maintains that she is the debtor in the matter of letters. Points out that her husband is living in the Capital among prominent people, while she is confined to a country village where there is little to write of. Abraham [Ridgely], though standing alone and beginning to walk, stays small and frail. [John] Davis is still wavering politically, but the unpatriotic attitude of the Connecticut Federalists has almost made him a Democrat. [Negroes] Joe and Jem need more work assigned them. [The horse] Cub appears ill. Dr. [William] Morris suggests pasturing him on the salt marsh.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, April 12, 1812.

Is pleased with the progress in letter-writing Charles [George Ridgely] displays. Indicates certain deliberately misspelled words which the boy had been directed to find in his father's recent letter. Lack of space, previous commitments to [John Banning] and her own difficult temperament all make him disapprove of taking Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely into their family. Leaves the final decision to his wife, suggesting that she discuss with [Nicholas Ridgely] the possibility of making other arrangements for the widow. Remarks that he hates sharing a room with another man, and likes a "small and quiet family." Refers to the disposal of family silver now in Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely's keeping. Hopes Congress may soon adjourn or recess for he is eager to be home.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, April 12, 1812.

Is relieved that the matter of Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely is settled. Asks if it is true Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey is planning to leave Delaware after his marriage, in which she thinks he "has done surprisingly well." Fears Washington's weddings and "gay Belles" make the married men wish themselves widowers. Has had a small summer house built in the garden, selling a calf

to defray the expense. Has changed her mind about the silver tankard. Refers to Charles George and Abraham [Ridgely], Mrs. [William] Morris and little William [Morris]. Is sorry "my friends the Democrats go so frequently astray" politically and sometimes now feels "a little like a turncoat."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, April 14, 1812.

Appreciates his wife's increasing punctuality in writing, and is relieved that Charles [George Ridgely] has recovered. Fears there is less prospect of adjournment than he had hoped, for he now believes a resolution for a declaration of war will be proposed and adopted in the near future. Sends a copy of the "Government Paper" which advocates war.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, April 15, 1812.

The Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] thinks Congress will sit without adjournment "until next March." Adds later that she is delighted at the prospect of seeing her husband by the first of the month. Mrs. [Abraham] Ridgely did not seem hurt by Henry's decision, and now plans to spend the coming summer and winter with "your Aunt [Mrs. Thomas] Dorsey," then to divide her time between her own and her late husband's relatives. Asks about additional work for [slaves] Jem and Joe.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, April 16, 1812.

Remarks that their correspondence is so voluminous there will soon not be a trunk in the house large enough to hold it. In the evening will attend the wedding of [Outerbridge] Horsey and Miss [Eliza] Lee. Promises a description of the ceremony which will be "according to the forms of the Romish Church," since the bride is a strict Catholic. Is homesick. In reply to Sally's "jocose insinuation" assures her he would exchange his wife for no other woman in the world.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

HON HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from JOHN FISHER, Dover, April 19, 1812.

Thanks Mr. Ridgely for the contents of two recent letters. Mr. [C. A.] Rodney has very lately stated that he would neither accept the vacant judgeship nor exercise any influence in filling it. Is therefore surprised that it may still be offered him. Refers,

in connection with his own application, to [Governor Joseph] Haslet, [Nicholas Ridgely], [James A.] Bayard, and [John] Pleasonton. "The engineer is at work relative to our Canal; all Dover is out with him." The fall from "the Mill to Syke's landing" is 7½ feet.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, April 19, 1812.

Is distressed at the idea of war, which she still hopes may be avoided. Likewise worries about Abraham's [Ridgely] fragile health, particularly during the unhealthy fall months. Begs to be allowed to take him to some healthy climate for the dangerous period. Speaks of Charles George [Ridgely], the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] and Mary [Morris].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, April 19, 1812.

Expresses his deep and constantly growing love for his wife. Describes the wedding of Senator [Outerbridge] Horsey and Miss [Eliza] Lee, telling of an embarrassing moment caused by the groom's unfamiliarity with the Catholic service. Hopes the religious difference will cause no friction, for the bride appears "a very fine woman." She is devout, studious and benevolent, but "cheerful and fond of company. . . . She is a brunette, and not *very* pretty, but yet quite a comely fine looking woman and more like my sister Ann [Ridgely], I think, than any other woman I know." Discounts the rumor Mr. Horsey will leave Delaware, for he only recently discussed seeking a more convenient house in Wilmington. Speaks of social engagements. Mentions [Josiah] Quincy, [John] Randolph, [Joseph] Lewis, [Jr.], the Misses Worthington and their father Dr. Worthington of George Town, [D. C.], and Philip B. Key. Has purchased for his wife *The Works of the Rev. Claudius Buchanan* and *Thinks I to Myself*, "supposed to be written by Mr. Canning." Wishes she might be with him to see and hear the Marine Corps, now marching past to church.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, April 21, 1812.

Tells of the plans for official mourning for the Vice-President [George Clinton]. Wishes Sally were in Washington. Considers accepting no more purely social invitations until she comes, for he does not enjoy parties without her. Has attended a few of Mrs. [James] Madison's levees in company with certain other Federalists who think it petty and politically unwise for mem-

bers of their party to boycott the President's drawing room. Refers to the Misses Worthington and Mr. [John] Baker. Sally's last letter arrived late, having been "sunk in the Sesquehanna" with the rest of the mail.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDG[ELY], Dover, April 22, 1812.

Hastily acknowledges her husband's letter containing a description of [Outerbridge Horsey's] wedding. Hopes she was right in paying the taxes on "your Smy[rna] farm."

A. L. S. 1 p. 17.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from R. COOPER, [n. p.], May 7, 1812.

Asks if it is possible to move for a new trial of the indictment against him for maintaining a nuisance, since the Court failed to call to the jury's attention a point he considers material in his defense. Is not troubled about the fine, but "it goes much ag[ain]st me to be convicted of an offense that I know myself innocent of the least . . . intention of committing."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16.8cm. x 20.4cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from JOHN FISHER, Wilmington, June 7, 1812.

Thinks the [originally] enclosed document an acceptable basis for compromising the case at issue in the Court of Chancery. Refers to Sam McLane, Mr. and Mrs. [Thomas] Davy, Mrs. . . . Brooks and Dr. [George] Munro as parties concerned, and to himself as Mrs. Davy's guardian. Asks Mr. Ridgely's opinion. He and Mr. [Gabriel] Duval "have been sitting as a Circuit Court at Newcastle. . . . we surprise the natives by doing something like business." Will try a case of mutiny tomorrow.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 32.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS COOPER, George Town, Del., Sept. 1, 1812.

Acknowledges a recent letter. Among the friends with whom he has discussed its contents there seems little difference of opinion. Mentions [Peter] Robinson.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 24.9cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 13, 1812.

Is relieved to learn of her husband's safe arrival at the Capital, but sorry his living accommodations are not yet satisfactory. At first was depressed and rebellious at the thought of resuming responsibility for the household, but is now reconciled. Outlines some difficulties in connection with the building operations at "the [Sylvester] Purnell farm." Mentions Mr. [Samuel] Taggart, Col. and Mrs. [Benjamin] Tallmadge, and Mr. [John] Baker.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 20, 1812.

Is pleased her husband has obtained lodgings at Mrs. . . . Wadsworth's, and will be with Mr. [John] Baker and Mr. [Harmanus] Bleecker. Mr. . . . Goldsborough will take his family to Washington for the winter. "Susan Mereham or Mearham" [Marim] ran off a week or two ago with a Methodist preacher of the name of [James] Bateman." William Collins of Wilmington recently married Miss . . . Penrose of Philadelphia, and Mary Alford is about to marry Mr. . . . Seth of Hillsborough, [Md.]. Comments further on the construction at [Sylvester] Purnell's farm. Gossips about the change "Old [James] Robinson" planned to make in his will in favor of "your tenant, [William] David," among others. Reminds her husband to write to Charles George [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Nov. 22, 1812.

Has been disappointed at not receiving a letter from his father. Tells of a recent fire in their dining room chimney, fortunately controlled by a heavy rain. Reads regularly from Homer's *Iliad*, which he admires "more and more".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Nov. 23, 1812.

Begs for frequent letters. "Poor [Elias] Jarrell the miller died very suddenly on Friday." Refers to work in progress at the Duck Creek farm, butchering a cow, and purchase of "half a beef" to supplement their large winter supply of pork. Pork is \$6.00 a hundred.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 24, 1812.

Cannot understand her husband's complaints about her unpunctual correspondence, for she has found him very negligent. [Daniel] Lowber moves to Philadelphia next week. Mr. [James M.] Broom will occupy the house in Wilmington he vacates and may form a law partnership with [John] Davis. Enjoyed the Quaker Meeting she recently attended, where a Mrs. Horn from England spoke, but disliked "the tone they affected in their voice." Charles George [Ridgely] reads understandingly from Purnell's *Hermit* and quickly memorized "the beautiful little poem 'On Linden when the Sun was low'" which Mr. Lowber brought him as a gift.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 27, 1812.

She and Charles George [Ridgely] were deeply disappointed and hurt at not receiving any letters from Washington. Tells of the building operations at the "Foxhall" and Duck Creek properties which had been delayed by lack of materials. Uncle [Richard] Banning's estate has been settled. Thinks their share worth at least sixteen hundred dollars. Does not feel that John [Banning] made a judicious settlement with [Dr. William McKee]. Tells of two properties the former has bought. Mentions Mr. . . . Naudain, [Mr.] . . . Jones, Mr. . . . Cummins, [William] David, [Daniel] Lowber and Mr. [James M.] Broom.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Nov. 29, 1812.

Was pleased with the recent letters from his wife and only son Charles [George Ridgely]. Sends home the formal invitation to an entertainment aboard the Frigate *Constellation*, which he did not attend. His room at Mrs. Wadsworth's, which he describes minutely, is so large, comfortable and convenient he is tempted to send for Sally. Explains various items of farm business, mentioning [Mr.] Hanson, John West, Sylvester Purnel, "my Fox Hall tenants", Mr. . . . Jenkins and [James] Clayton.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25.3cm.

C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Nov. 29, 1812.

Hopes his son's admiration of Homer's "Illiad" grows with daily reading. Suggests he find the poet's biography in Lem-

priere's *Dictionary*, and asks about a misspelled word. Repeats his previous admonitions on habits of study and on *Bible* reading.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Dec. 3, 1812.

Is pleased with Charles [George Ridgely's] reading ability and his good taste in poetry. Hopes he will "acquire a settled habit for reading and study." Sends a paper containing a parody on the account by [Joseph] Gales, [Jr.] of the entertainment aboard the *Constellation* published in the *Intelligencer* and *Aurora*.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Dec. 4, 1812.

Comments on her husband's comfortable quarters, his failure to attend the entertainment aboard the *Constellation*, and her own very regular hours, rising "with the sun" and retiring between nine and ten. Asks about Mr. . . . Wilson and the Hamiltons.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 9, 1812.

Hopes the rumors of [James A.] Bayard's intended resignation [from the U. S. Senate] are untrue. Mr. [Nicholas] Vandyke, Mr. [James M.] Broom and Mr. [William Hill] Wells are suggested as successors. Believes her husband should accept more invitations while he is in Washington. Dr. [James] Sykes and James [Sykes, Jr.] will soon visit the Capital. Expects a visit from her husband in January.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from JAMES M. BROOM, Wilmington, Dec. 10, 1812.

Forwards a certificate of E[dward] Roche, notary public, and a \$10.00 fee to procure a "certificate of citizenship" [passport] for John Bemis to take with him to France. Haste is necessary.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 11, 1812.

Susan Marim's parents remain "much incensed at her disobedience." Her husband, the Mr. [James] Bateman whom Mr. Ridgely has met, is highly spoken of by all who know him but she admits a runaway match is to a family "in many instances . . . much worse than death." Work is progressing slowly at the Smyrna farm, "Foxhall", [Sylvester] Purnell's farm and the [James] Clayton farm.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY and S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Dec. 12, 1812.

Charles George [Ridgely] tells of a writing master expected in Dover shortly, who will teach pupils to write "an excellent hand in fifteen lessons", for a fee of \$5.00. Hopes his father can be with them for Christmas dinner at Uncle Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely]. "Iliad" was the misspelled word in his father's letter.

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note asking if the papers she sent were those her husband needed. [William] Carrow holds out little hope for the wheat on the [James] Clayton farm.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 18, 1812.

The task of curing meat has kept her very much occupied during the past few days. Has 921 pounds of pork at \$7.00 per hundred and 1092 pounds at \$6.50 per hundred. Fears she may have too much. Feels very much of a novice at such tasks. Inquires about Peter Kelly's bill of \$10.00 for shingles. Mentions Betsy [Mrs. John] Davis. Is disappointed that her husband will not be home as she had hoped.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 21, 1812.

Sends Eben Callahan's bill for ditching. Will try to master her disappointment at not having the expected visit now if her husband can be home "at the time of my confinement." Has withdrawn \$374.00 from the bank to pay various bills. Asks if she has been extravagant. After handling them herself she understands his anxiety about household accounts.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 23, 1812.

Mrs. . . . Warner died last night in childbirth, while her husband was attending court at New Castle. Criticizes her daughter. Betsy Alston and Robert McClyment plan to be married in January. Asks his opinion of the match. John [Banning] inquires about terms for the purchase of [Negro] Frank's remaining time.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 24, 1812.

Is much tempted to come home but thinks it wiser to remain in Washington than tease himself with a short visit. Plans to be in Dover before the birth of their expected child. Thinks Eben Callahan's bill exorbitant. Received "the account between [William] David and me."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 27, 1812.

Carefully explains the steps to be taken in collecting an overdue account from William David, a tenant. Prefers to have Cornelius Battell act for him, but Richard Corker is acceptable. James Sykes, [Jr.] called yesterday. He expects his father in Washington soon. Had a dull Christmas, with "nothing to remind us of the season except mince pie." Is "neither a match maker nor a match breaker" so hesitates to advise about the proposed marriage of Betsy [Alston] to [Mr. Robert] M[c]-C[lyment]. Has heard excellent reports of the man, and approves the marriage if Betsy herself is satisfied. Discusses the sale of Negro Frank's remaining term of service. [John Banning] may have him if the servant agrees.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 28, 1812.

Dined at the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] on Christmas. Missed her husband a great deal. Sends the bank statement, which she cannot understand. Refers to [Moses] Sipple's bill. Asks when [slave] Margaret will be free. Now believes Henry has quite enough social life in Washington; says facetiously that she is becoming jealous. John [Banning] has left Dover, intending to marry and settle on his farm near Wilmington. Betsy Alston will be married next month.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 29, 1812.

Writes hastily while awaiting his dinner guest, Mr. . . . Bigelow, who "was at Huff's in Lewis Town when we were there in the summer of 1810, and one of those who defended . . . Hanson's house in Baltimore against the mob." Has not yet seen Dr. [James] Sykes or heard of his arrival in Washington.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 30, 1812.

Comments on the strange will of "Old [James] Robinson". [William] David, a Ridgely tenant, has moved onto the Robinson farm, and seems amazingly affluent. Suggests that he should now be pressed for a settlement. Asks about the "lot over the hill", now "quite a common" because the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] fence is down. Mentions Joseph Harper, [Benjamin] Vanwinkle, and . . . Patterson.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Dec. 31, 1812.

Gently reproves Sally for occasional negligence in writing. Did not attend the funeral of Mr. [John] Smilie. Has seen Dr. [James] Sykes and James [Sykes, Jr.], Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey, and Mr. . . . Goldsborough. Believes [Negro] Margaret will be free in April, but James Harper can check the date. Sends New Year's greetings.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 3, 1813.

Asks her husband's promise to return by February 15th. [Cornelius] Battell will handle the business with [William] David. [Negro] Frank is willing to go with John [Banning] for his remaining four years of service. Discusses farm business. Mentions the [James] Robinson estate, Mrs. [James] Sykes, James Clayton and Moses Sipple.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 6, 1813.

Defends herself against the charge of writing irregularly. Miss [Charlesina] Nixon is "to have a dashing wedding. Mrs. [James] Sykes and Mrs. [Elizabeth] Nixon are making great preparations". Asks her husband's advice about accepting an

invitation. Ann Freeman and Betsy Alston will both be married next week. Is writing in the kitchen to allow Betsy and Mr. [Robert] McClyment a convenient opportunity to discuss their plans. "Old Daniel Mifflin" died Thursday. The business with [William] David is not yet settled.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 8, 1813.

A cold has made her very wretched. Charles George [Ridgely] is attending the writing master's classes and is "quite in high spirits." There will be eighteen two-hour lessons. [William] David's goods have been put under execution by the Sheriff but, as both he and his wife are out of town, asks further directions regarding collection of the debt. Charlesina Nixon has been seriously ill of pleurisy but is improving.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 10, 1813.

Failure to hear from Sally has made him very uneasy. Expresses his affection for her. Knows no "tea table news" of Washington for he rarely visits. Mr. [James A.] Bayard and family have taken lodgings "near George Town", [D. C.]. Adds a note acknowledging a letter. Leaves it to his wife's discretion whether she should attend the wedding of [Charlesina] Nixon and Mr. [John] Ridout. Inquires about Miss [Ann] Freeman's marriage.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 10, 1813.

Bleeding gave her considerable relief from her cold but she is still confined to the house. Hopes Charlesina [Nixon] recovers before her wedding day. Yesterday she was dangerously ill. [January 11] adds a note reporting that she herself has had a relapse and been bled again, but is now improving. The Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] has been very solicitous. Tells of the progress of the action against [William] David, mentioning Mr. [Cornelius] Battell, Joseph Harper, and Mr. . . . Clayton.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 13, 1813.

Has had but little relief from her cold despite "every precaution". Joseph Raymond is security for [William] David's debt. Hopes to see a copy of her husband's speech "which the

United States Gazette spoke so handsomely of in the last number" and of which she is very proud. Asks if fifty pounds is a sufficient price for [Negro] Frank, who "has never been a good servant."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 18, 1813.

Remains in wretched health and spirits, and worries about her husband. After arrangements had been completed Frank refused to go with John [Banning] because he would be separated from his wife. Would have compelled him to do so, but her brother obtained another servant immediately. Has hired Frank to Andrew Cally. Feels much better. Had been on "low diet" at the recommendation of Dr. [William] Morris who wished to avoid a third bleeding. James Morris is critically ill with pleurisy.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 18, 1813.

Writes later the same evening to assure her husband her despondent mood has passed and her health is much improved. Though she is eager to see him, does not wish him to return until he can stay.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, Jan. 20, 1813.

Has been bled again, placed on a sparing diet and ordered to bed to "take medicine to produce perspiration." Promises to notify him at once if any serious symptoms appear, and urges him not to return otherwise, for he would probably find her completely well when he arrived.

A. N. [S. inferred] 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 21, 1813.

Is worried at his wife's low spirits, fearing her attitude will affect both her own health and his expected namesake's. Sends an account of the encounter between the *Wasp* and the *Frolic*, directing Charles George [Ridgely] to read it both aloud and silently before it is sent to the Chancellor. Tells of an invitation to tea extended by the Goldsborough family to his mess. Mentions Mr. John Baker, Mr. [Archibald] McBryde, Mr. [Harmanus] Bleecker and Anna Maria [Goldsborough]. Asks about Betsy Alston's marriage. Approves hiring [Negro] Frank to Andrew Calley.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 22, 1813.

Is improving after being quite ill of "an inflammatory fever". Charlesina Nixon was married very quietly, possibly because of Nicholas Loockerman's serious illness. B[etsy] Alston will be married on Monday with the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] and his wife, the Morris family and a few others as guests.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 24, 1813.

Is very much better. Dr. [William] Morris has recommended wine and moderate use of "animal food" since her fever, cough, and chest pain are nearly gone. Nicholas Loockerman is improving after having been at the point of death. There has been much illness, with many deaths, in the vicinity. The Chancellor has been ill, but she suspects "he was more alarmed than anything else." Refers to [her cousin's] marriage the following day. Mentions Mrs. [Elizabeth] Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. [John] Rideout, and Mr. and Mrs. . . . Goldsborough.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, House of Representatives, [Washington], Jan. 26, 1813.

Cautions Sally about her health. Did not hear Lorenzo Dow preach on Sunday as he had hoped, and did not stay to listen to his substitute, Mr. [Mason L.] Weems.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 28, [18]13.

Remains anxious about his wife's health and impatient to be home. The "Panharmonicon", which he heard demonstrated yesterday, is a curious and interesting invention. It unites "the flute, clarinet, french horn, kettledrum and perhaps half a dozen other instruments", and produces very acceptable music. Its case is very handsome.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 29, 1813.

Has been ill again. Tells of Betsy Alston's wedding to Mr. [Robert] McClyment. Mr. . . . Smith and Mr. [Manning] Force (Methodist Preachers), Mr. and Mrs. [John] Wiltbank, Dr. and Mrs. [William] Morris and "old Mrs. Morris", Mrs. . . . Newton, Chancellor and Mrs. [Nicholas Ridgely], herself and Charles

George [Ridgely] formed the wedding party. Mary Morris' daughter was born this morning. Hopes her husband will be home before the birth of their own child next month, but sees no need for him to come before February 15th.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 31, [18]13.

All the news of Dover is "of a gloomy nature". Mrs. [Rebecca] Naudain, wife of "old Mr. [Andrew] Naudain", is dead, leaving an infant "and many other children." Charlesina Rideout is ill again and has been unable to leave Dover. Mary [Morris] has not been well since the birth of her child, an extremely small infant who has not yet been named. E[lizabeth] McClyment [née Betsy Alston] is the happiest person on earth and looks forward to "sunshine all her days."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 31, 1813.

Has very little news except what she will see in the newspapers. Declined an invitation to a large dance on the occasion of the christening of a child of Dr. [Thomas] Ewell and his wife, née Stoddard [Stoddert], both strangers to him. Spent a pleasant evening at the home of Mr. [John] Baker's cousin, has dined with Mr. [Philip B.] Key, Col. [Philip] Stuart, the President [James Madison], Mr. . . . Goldsborough, Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey and Mr. [John] Randolph, but has accepted no other invitations. Was greatly disappointed in the preaching and manner of Lorenzo Dow, who he thinks "bears a good deal the marks of derangement."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 3, 1813.

Writes hastily to let her husband know she continues to improve. "I am quite tired of being a lonely widow; indeed we are altogether a saynothing sick set of people in this Town".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 5, 1813.

Is very anxious to see her husband, and begins to worry because he says nothing of coming home. Mary Morris wants some early garden seed and she herself needs a large supply of soap. Expects a present, suggesting that she would appreciate an inexpensive white lace veil.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 7, 1813.

Assures her that her letters provide his greatest pleasure in Washington. Hopes to leave for home in about a week, though he may be somewhat detained by bad roads and by efforts in behalf of a bill relating to seamen in which he is much interested. Both parties are bitterly divided on the issue, but he hopes the provision, if adopted in substantially its present form, might help end the war. Expects [Josiah] Quincy to lead the New England Federalists in opposition. Finds the "idle rant" so frequent during the sessions very trying. Dined with Dr. Worthington; the Russian Minister was among the guests. Calls Charles [George Ridgely] severely to task for failure to reply promptly to his last letter.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 8, 1813.

It has become almost impossible to reconcile herself to "this cruel separation" now that she expects her husband almost daily. Hopes Mary's [Morris] prediction he will be home within the week is correct.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. DANIEL] LOWBER, Philadelphia, Feb. 12, 1813.

Inquires anxiously about her cousin's health, and expresses her fondness for her. Invites her to visit in the spring. Will buy the candlesticks as soon as the packets start running, for they cannot be conveniently delivered until then. Is pleased that Betsy Alston "is well married" but supposes Sally misses her. Fears her own husband's health will not be good in Philadelphia, for he "has not been long well since we came to this place."

To this comment D[aniel] L[owber] adds the note: "Tis no such thing; I am full as well as I have been, . . . but you know your cousin."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 24.8cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOSEPH ANTHONY MAYBIN, Carlisle, Penna., Mar. 15, 1813.

The Secretary of the Belles Lettres Society of Dickinson College, in a circular letter, solicits contributions from "Honorary Members" for suitably furnishing the Society's new permanent meeting room. Points out that the present members have increased the library to 800 volumes.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from PETER CONRAD, Brushmaker, 124 N. 3rd St., Phila[delphia], Mar. 17, 1813.

Acknowledges payment of a bill. Asks Mr. Ridgely to arrange for him the sale of a piece of land "part of the Estate of the late Matthew Mifflin . . . which was . . . allotted to his daughter Sarah Mifflin, now Sarah Conrad." Has no idea of its value.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 24.5cm.

PETER CONRAD, Brushmaker, Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, April 16, 1813.

Advises the best method of disposing of a piece of real estate owned by Mrs. Conrad in this State.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, [D. C.], from H[ARMANUS] BLEECKER, Albany, [N. Y.], May 4, 1813.

Introduces Moss Kent, a new member of Congress who succeeds Mr. [Silas] Stow. Thinks his "orthodox opinions and modell manners" will please Mr. Ridgely, whose good offices he asks for this friend.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 25.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN WHARTON, 26 Walnut St., Philadelphia, May 10, 1813.

Inquires about the status of business placed in Mr. Ridgely's hands by "my brother-in-law, Mr. . . . Craig." Mr. . . . Manlove's bond, which the action sought to collect, is joint property of Mr. . . . Craig and Mrs. . . . Wharton.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from A[RCHIBALD] McBRYDE, "Tysons", Fayetteville, N. [Carolina], May 15, 1813.

Hopes Mr. Ridgely is safely back on Capitol Hill. Though "a load of taxes" is generally expected he does not believe "your majority men will hazard them." Recommends [William] Gaston "to your mess" and sends an enclosure to the landlady. Asks for occasional copies of the *U[nited] S[tates] Gazette* "or anything else that will amuse a Back Woodsman."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S COOPER, Washington, May 26, 1813.

Forgives his colleague for failure to accompany him to Washington since it was Farmers Bank business that detained him. Tells of difficulty he has had in securing a satisfactory seat in the House or a comfortable room. A good seat is reserved for Mr. Ridgely. Names the members of the mess. Sends a copy of the President's message. Mentions Senator [William] Hunter, T[homas] Clayton, Mr. . . . Wattson, and Mr. [James] Rogers of New Castle.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 4, 1813.

Describes an uneventful journey from Wilmington to Washington. Arrived at Baltimore very tired after fourteen hours on the road, but rested well there. At Washington he found his comfortable room of the previous session ready for his reception. Wishes he had brought his wife. His mess includes Mr. [William] Hunter (Rhode Island); Mr. [Timothy] Pickering and Mr. [Cyrus] King (Massachusetts); Mr. [Moss] Kent, Mr. [Nathaniel] Howell and Mr. [James] Geddes (New York); and himself and Mr. [Thomas] Cooper [from Delaware]. There are about ninety new members of the House this session. Asks "information about the British fleet in the [Delaware] Bay." Mentions their children.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 6, 1813.

Called, with Mr. [Thomas] Cooper and Mr. [Moss] Kent, upon Mrs. [James] Madison and the President. Describes at length a church service and dinner celebrating the Russian victory over the French. Disapproved the toast offered by the Russian Minister. Refers to Mr. . . . Curtis, Robert G. Harper of Baltimore, Mr. [Timothy] Pickering and William Hughlett. Many guests at the celebration came considerable distances, one even from Ohio.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 8, [1813].

Is pleased to hear of his safe arrival in Washington, but home is very lonely without him. There has been "no alarm from the British" or any news of the fleet in the Bay. Hopes his mess proves pleasant. Was disappointed to hear the Mr. King

he mentions is not Senator [Rufus] King of New York. Adds a postscript reporting firing in the Bay and the arrival of an additional large ship and brig.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from ALEX-[ANDER] L. HAYES, Dover, June 9, 1813.

Inquires about a note placed in Mr. Ridgely's hands for action, and offers to do anything he can to expedite the business. Mr. . . . Bell, Abraham Pierce and David Millan are the persons concerned. Tells of the movements of enemy and American ships in Delaware Bay and of attacks on American shallops. Col. [Samuel B.] Davis is recruiting successfully for the 32nd Regiment and there is some jealousy between him and Col [Armwell] Long. Thinks the statement these troops are intended for local or district defense is a "cheat" designed solely to spur enlistment. It is rumored that the British forts along the Niagara have surrendered and that the *Chesapeake* has struck to the *Shannon*.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, June 11, 1813.

Would have enjoyed hearing Mr. . . . Curtis' oration in celebration of the Russian victories. Charles George [Ridgely] has the ague, which she suspects he contracted while swimming. Elizabeth [Ridgely] has been vaccinated. Her own cousin E[lizabeth] Lowber and Miss . . . Rodney are both visiting.

A. L. [S. implied] 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 13, 1813.

Concludes that his wife's failure to write oftener than once in nine or ten days is a hint his own letters are too long and too frequent. Corrects an error in his account of a toast at the banquet celebrating the Russian victory.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 15, 1813.

Had intended to reply earlier and at greater length to his wife's welcome letter, but was called back to the House to vote on an election contest. Asks for a letter by every mail. Mr. [William Hill] Wells has arrived, and has joined their mess. Hopes Charles [George Ridgely] soon recovers from the ague. Speaks of their infant Elizabeth [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 16, 1813.

Is hurt that her husband does not write often, as he did last winter. Mr. . . . Patterson has publicly apologized to Capt. [Philemon] Green's company for an insult to its members. Read with pleasure the speeches at the Russian celebration. Asks her husband to buy *Says I to Myself*, by the author of *Thinks I to Myself*.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 17, [1813].

For several days past the heat has been excessive though the weather is changeable. He discarded his flannels yesterday. His present quarters are hotter than those they occupied together last year. However, "some very good baths [have been] put up" near Davis' tavern about a mile away; he finds it refreshing to patronize them. Usually gets up about sunrise to do so.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, June 18, 1813.

Has chosen to write to his father rather than go swimming. Mr. [Stephen] Sykes calls him an attentive student. Lt. [Mascal] Clark has enlisted seventeen men. Lt. . . . Patterson has apologized to Capt. [Philemon] Green and his company.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 18, 1813.

"Even your scolding [letters] are pleasing. . . . The heat, mosquitoes and retirement has almost overcome me." Does not care for the bindings of his Shakespeare and Scot[t]'s *Poems*, which have come from the bookbinder, but paid the bill for them, \$10.05. Charles [George Ridgely] is "very attentive to his Latin grammar" and has behaved very well in his father's absence. Elizabeth [Ridgely] is growing fast. Regrets the departure of the Caverly family. Has heard nothing of the British in [Delaware] Bay. Asks if it is true the "*Chesapeake* has retaken herself."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 20, 1813.

Though their mess is the most satisfactory he knows of, it is not so pleasant as that of last winter, for the loss of Messrs. [Harmanus] Bleecker, [John] Baker and [Archibald] McBryde "cannot well be supplied by others". Wishes he had brought Sally with him. Mr. [William] Reed and Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey have suggested that their families and the Ridgelys live together in the fall. Is glad Charles George [Ridgely] has recovered from the ague. Directs him to bathe several times a week in water freshly drawn from the well, immediately after he rises. Considers this treatment "a preventive of that disease." Also wants his son to form the habit of constant reading and study, and to be required to write weekly to his father. At his present age "his time is most precious and should be properly improved", though not at the expense of "a sufficiency of manly exercise." Gives detailed directions for harvesting, curing and storing the hay, and for other farm tasks. Blames President Madison for the war and resultant disasters. Considers his present illness "war fever" induced by conscience, if he has any. "Old Doctor [James] Tilton", now in Washington, has been appointed Surgeon General of the Army. Mentions *The Book*, the newspaper *Aurora*, Captain . . . Manby and "Mr. [Charles B.] Lawrence the painter."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 21, 1813.

Writes affectionately, apologizing for the ill humor of a recent letter. Was pleased with the improvement their son shows in composition. Emphasizes the importance of his forming sound habits of study and behavior now. The copies of Shakespeare and Scott returned from the bookbinder's should be thoroughly aired. Comments on the loss of the *Chesapeake*. "Our national affairs are in a gloomy state. . . . The men at the head of the nation [are] perfectly incompetent to fulfill the duties of their stations and incapable of conducting a war."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 23, 1813.

Comments on the pleasure her husband takes in his cold morning bath. Elizabeth [Ridgely] loves them, too. Finds a "hard bed" both cooler and healthier than a feather one. Joseph Cogle [Cowgill], a carpenter, was killed near Smyrna by the explosion of an overloaded cannon. Correct title of the book she wants is *I Says, Says I*. Promises to study *The Family*

Physician. Mrs. [John] Rideout, visiting Dover with her husband, has improved in both manner and appearance since her marriage.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 24, 1813.

Complains that he is writing five or six letters for each one he receives. A large British force is off Norfolk, [Virginia] and an attack on the town is expected.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from JOHN BAKER, Shepperd's Town, [Va.], June 24, 1813.

Introduces his nephew Baker White, son of Judge . . . White. Will appreciate any civilities shown the youth. Reminds Mr. Ridgely of his promise to write. Inquires about mutual friends.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 25, 1813.

Complains of a persistent pain in her head. Is delighted with the prospect of spending the winter in Washington and thinks it could be arranged without prohibitive expense. Is trying to keep Charles [George Ridgely] to his books. Fears [Stephen] Sykes' school will be completely neglected now that Mrs. [Peter] Caverly has left Dover. Comments on her husband's instructions about farm work and on the capture of the *Chesapeake*. Regrets the death of Captain [James] Lawrence and "young . . . Broom" but has no pity for Mr. [President James] Madison who "should be brought to feel a few of the calamities he has brought on the Nation, and . . . few would lament if the war fever carried him to his grave."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, June 27, 1813.

Reminds his son that sound habits of study must be formed in childhood. Is pleased with [Stephen] Sykes' report of his progress. Repeats his instructions about *Bible* study, letter-writing, and obedience. Mentions Lt. [Mascal] Clarke's recruiting activities. Regrets the poor education of most American officers, contrasting it with Julius Caesar's well-rounded preparation. Refers to the textbook "Sandford and Merton".

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, June 27, [18]13.

Is glad his wife is using his favorite cold bath treatment with Elizabeth. Gives her explicit directions for avoiding shock or colds. Comments on a British landing near Norfolk, [Virginia]. Has purchased *I Says, Says I*, and *The Whole Duty of a Woman, by a Lady, Written at the Desire of a Noble Lord*. Will soon obtain *The Family Physician*. The President [James Madison] is still seriously ill.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.9cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 28, 1813.

Greatly appreciates her husband's generosity in foregoing his dessert of raspberries and cream to write to her. Will have the timothy cut when the dock has been weeded out. The Ridgely and Morris families "made up a party to the Bay" to please Charles George [Ridgely] but she enjoyed the trip herself. "Dover affords no news." Asks about a report that both the President and Vice President are gravely ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, June 29, [18]13.

The weather continues so hot and oppressive he cannot even write with comfort. Sends a paper telling of the British landing in Virginia. Mr. [President James] Madison remains very sick.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 24.9cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 30, 1813.

The timothy, now being cut, gives promise of an excellent crop. Waits impatiently for news of the adjournment of Congress. [Stephen] Sykes has held no school for over a week. The Clayton children have been withdrawn. Thinks it "insufferable to encourage a man that conducts himself so badly." Asks about [President] Madison's condition.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 2, 1813.

Asks if the report the President [Madison] is dead is true. Fears there would be little "cause to rejoice at his death" since the Vice President, "I suspect, not so good a man," would continue the same policies. Nathaniel Boyer died very suddenly,

probably of cholera morbus. Discusses the timothy harvest. An epidemic of spotted fever is reported among troops at Lewes, [Del.] particularly those from Laurel, [Del.]. Has gotten a uniform for Charles [George Ridgely] who is drilling with a troop of small boys. Speaks of Elizabeth [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 2, 1813.

Complains of the excessive heat, even "now" at six in the morning. Asks if his wife's guests, Mrs. [Daniel] Lowber and Miss . . . Rodney, have left. Has visited very little. Mentions the Misses Worthington, Anna Maria and Eliza Goldsborough and their mother, Mr. [John] Baker and his relatives, Miss . . . Baker and Mrs. Carr, the Misses Otis and Mr. [Timothy] Pickering. The rumor heard in Dover is untrue: President Madison is recovering and "nothing is the matter with the vice president [Elbridge Gerry] but old age and imbecility." Comments on "Mr. [Charles Jared] Ingersoll's speech". Returns a kiss to "our dear Betz" [Elizabeth Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.9cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 6, 1813.

Having taken a dose of calomel "as a preventive of sickness" according to his habit at this season, he did not feel like writing his usual Sunday letter, especially since he received none on Saturday. The Hall of the House of Representatives has been "in truth intolerable" from heat. Members have had to retire at frequent intervals for relief from the fetid atmosphere. Attended the theatre twice but he was too uncomfortable to enjoy the plays. The invasion of Canada is going badly. Condemns the Administration's conduct of the war. [President] Madison has almost recovered.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 7, 1813.

Refers to the receipt of a much-delayed letter from her husband, a visit from Charity Driver and Mary Seth, and the death of Charity's young son, Henry Driver. Comments on the relative comfort of their own house during the extremely hot weather, and on farm affairs. Mentions Abraham Goldsborough. "Elizabeth [Ridgely] shall not send you any more of her sweet kisses, because you nickname her."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 8, 1813.

The heat continues. Sends a newspaper containing an account of the recent capture of American troops under Col. Borstler. If his wife has finished [David] Hume's *History of England*, he suggests that she begin [John] Marshall's *Life of Washington*, which he is anxious for her to read this summer. Will explain why when he returns.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 9, 1813.

Complains of her husband's neglect. Asks if he read in the *Delaware Statesman* of Ann Boddy's death.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 11, 1813.

Replies to his wife's recent mention of Mrs. [Mary] Seth, Mrs. [Charity] Driver, [Henry Driver's] death and [seed] corn for Abraham Goldsborough. Captain . . . Hall of the Marine Corps, husband of Hetty Broom, who has visited their mess, seems pleasant. Plans are complete for the Horsey, Read and Ridgely families to have quarters together at Mrs. Wadsworth's next winter. The rate is \$12.00 weekly "for ourselves and the same for our wives, and four dollars a week for each servant." Each family will have its carriage. Thinks the pleasure it will give them both justifies the expense, since he will decline re-nomination. Cannot purchase a new carriage or horses this year so the old must be carefully "kept in order." Refers again to "my dear Betz" [Elizabeth Ridgely]. Fears the business of the [Congressional] session will be allowed to lag now that the weather is pleasant, since some of the members "like their six dollars a day."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, July 11, 1813.

Lt. [Mascal] Clark has enlisted twenty men and taken them to Lewes. [George] M[e]an is in jail for forgery on the Farmers Bank to the amount of \$100.00. Has an infected stone bruise. Reads the *Bible* daily and has nearly completed the Latin textbook "Sanford and Merton". Liked the story of Leonidas. Looks forward to a letter from his father.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 12, 1813.

Charles [George] is recovering from a painful infection. His accompanying letter is entirely his own composition. Has finished [David Hume's] *History of England* and borrowed "the continuation by [Tobias] Smolett" from Mr. [Willard] Hall. Comments on the course of the war and the President's health. Though a frigate at the [Delaware] Capes has halted commerce, Delawareans no longer fear invasion.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.9cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 13, 1813.

Defends himself against the accusation of being an irregular correspondent. It is rumored that England has refused the mediation of Russia; if true, it means a long war. Suspects the mission was only an Administration ruse to make the war popular. Believes Sir Sidney Smith, an excellent British commander, will not be assigned to head the fleet against the United States because of his involvement in a scandal concerning the Princess of Wales. Will return soon whether or not Congress adjourns. [William Hill] Wells and [Thomas] Cooper are leaving to attend the Sussex County Court of Chancery.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 14, 1813.

Thinks Washington must be hotter than Dover, for she has not suffered from the heat this summer. Is anxious to complete Smolett's continuation of Hume's *History of England*, which she does not like so well as the original. To please her husband will read Marshall's *Life of Washington* though its length is forbidding. W[illia]m Goldsborough has died, leaving his estate to his brother Robert. Dr. [William] Morris and Chancellor [Nichols Ridgely] are both suffering from "the cholick".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 16, 1813.

Preparations for the defense of the Capital are being rushed. The British fleet is reported at Port Tobacco Creek, [Md.] sixty miles below Washington. Is certain the movement is a mere feint and that there is no danger of attack. Is sorry his son has suffered so from his injured foot. A proposal to arm members of Congress was discussed and abandoned.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.9cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 16, 1813.

Looks forward eagerly to having her husband's companionship again for she does not enjoy reading by candlelight and is usually alone after the children's bedtime. "I do think Dover as destitute of society as any inhabited place on the Globe." Is delighted with the plans for the winter. [Stephen] Sykes has given up his school. Hopes Dover parents will now unite in establishing a good one, or Charles George [Ridgely] will have to be sent elsewhere. Suggests he bring "a handsome gingham" as a present for his sister Mary [Morris] and reminds him to obtain a good supply of soap for themselves.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 25cm.

C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, July 18, 1813.

Is pleased with Charles' improvement in "stile and . . . hand-writing." Points the moral in the "disgrace and infamy" resulting from "George Mean's wicked conduct." Inquires about Lt. [Mascal] Clarke's successor in his civil offices. Both militia and regulars have marched to meet a British fleet reported in the Potomac below Port Tobacco. Tells of a militia engagement "on the Maryland side", hinting at incompetence.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 18, [18]13.

Teases his wife about her dislike of rising early. Is usually up with the sun himself and often off to "the luxury of the cold bath" before his barber arrives to shave him. Citizens now consider Washington secure and doubt the British can pass Fort Warburton. Calling up large numbers of militia has caused much hardship, especially among farmers, whose wheat crop is threatened. Refers to the recent unbearable heat.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 18, 1813.

Had hoped, when [William H.] Wells and [Thomas] Cooper arrived, that her husband was with them. Is worried about Elizabeth [Ridgely] who appears ill. Does not think the Prince Regent has sufficient regard for the Princess for anything concerning her to interfere with Sir Sidney Smith's appointment.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.9cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 20, 1813.

Is glad [Stephen] Sykes has given up his school and hopes that the residents of Dover will "now be willing to engage a teacher of worth and ability", for the town can afford to support such a man. Hopes the choice will not be made before his return. The military authorities "carry on with a pretty high hand", forcing militiamen to report to their companies, "even men who have procured substitutes."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HON HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from H[ARM-ANUS] BLEECKER, Albany, [N. Y.], July 20, 1813.

Acknowledges a copy of a public document. Asks for others whenever they can be sent without injustice to Mr. Ridgely's own constituents. Thinks the report, if unchallenged, tends to vindicate the Administration's policy and that it should be very carefully examined. Refers to their pleasant association in Washington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 27cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 21, 1813.

War news from Washington is extremely interesting. Elizabeth [Ridgely] is ill from a boil. Dr. [William] Morris is in Philadelphia seeking to recover [Negro] Jack. His success would prove an excellent example. Worries because she cannot supervise Charles [George Ridgely's] Latin and arithmetic. The boy is well-behaved and devoted to his sister. Dover remains very dull. Fears "a sickly fall."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 23, [18]13.

Is most anxious to return but believes it his duty to remain. The Federalists have been heavily censured for leaving their posts and permitting certain Administration proposals to pass the House. Would have the greatest contempt for the Prince Regent if he appointed Sir Sidney Smith to the command of the American station. Thinks the issue is one of personal pride into which his attitude toward the Princess does not enter. The British fleet has withdrawn. Hopes Elizabeth [Ridgely] has recovered.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, July 23, 1813.

Has finished "Sanford and Merton". Archibald McCall fills one of the [civil] offices resigned by Lt. [Mascal] Clark, who has been ordered to Canada. "Uncle John Banning" is visiting. Elizabeth [Ridgely] is still ill but he himself has recovered.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 23, 1813.

Is greatly pleased with Charles George's [Ridgely] progress. Her brother John [Banning] is visiting. Sally Alford is married to a Mr. . . . Milford of whom she knows nothing more. Elizabeth [Ridgely] remains fretful.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, July 26, 1813.

Mr. [William Hill] Wells has returned to Washington but Mr. [Thomas] Cooper probably will not do so. Wishes her husband would take leave of absence and come home before the session ends, as so many others have done. Dr. [William] Morris failed to recover his servant. Elizabeth's [Ridgely] boil has been lanced. Was horrified at the reports of the burning of Hampton, [Virginia] and attacks upon women there. Understands the anxiety in Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown, [D. C.]. Delaware has fortunately suffered only inconvenience and trade losses from the war.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 27, 1813.

Is delighted with his son's rapid improvement in composition. Hopes adjournment will come soon, for he does not think he should leave while Congress sits. Many Federalists have gone already and are being severely criticized.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, July 30, 1813.

Hopes to be home in a few days. Refers to the Senate's refusal to lay an embargo as requested by President Madison.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN RANDOLPH OF ROANOKE, Roanoke, [Va.], Aug. 15, 1813.

Acknowledges several communications from Mr. Ridgely since they parted in the spring. Because his agent has been "reconnoitering the enemy about Hampton, [Virginia]", fears his orders regarding Mr. Ridgely's tobacco have not been carried out and that his friend will "find the weed in Washington at the beginning of the next session of Congress." Has no news except rumors of "bitter animosity and jealousy in the Cabinet." Mentions Mr. . . . Stanford, Mr. and Mrs. [Outerbridge] Horsey, Mrs. [James A.] Bayard and Mrs. Ridgely.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from PETER CONRAD, 170 N. 2nd St., Phila[delphia], Sept. 21, 1813.

Was pleased with Mr. Ridgely's handling of business for him. Asks him to settle a claim in behalf of Mrs. Mary Fulweiler (née Mifflin) now a widow. Mentions Nathan Huff.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN DAVIS, Wilmington, Oct. 7, 1813.

In New Castle County Mr. [Daniel] Rodney's election as Governor is considered very probable. Asks Mr. Ridgely's advice about seeking appointment as Secretary of State in that event.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.3cm.

J[OHN] DAVIS, Esq., [Wilmington], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 29, 1813.

Is of the opinion that Mr. [Peter] Robinson of Georgetown would be appointed Secretary of State by Mr. [Gov.-elect, Daniel] Rodney because of his high standing in Sussex County among the Federal Party, of his convenient residence to Mr. Rodney and his intimacy with him, and because he formerly held the same office.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 20.7cm.

PETER CONRAD, 170 N. 2nd St., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 1, 1813.

Agrees to collect for Mrs. Mary Fulwiler the sum due her from her guardian, Nathan Huff. Asks further detail. His reply has been delayed because he was seriously ill when Mr. Conrad's letter came.

A. Cy. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 25vm. [Written on reverse of letter to H. Ridgely dated Sept. 21, 1813].

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN DAVIS, Wilmington, Nov. 4, 1813.

Appreciates the opinion given in a recent letter. It confirms his own conclusion.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from PETER CONRAD, Phila[delphia], Nov. 5, 1813.

Mrs. Mary Fulwiler states that neither she nor her late husband ever received any payment from the [Matthew Mifflin] estate and she wishes the matter settled. She married Samuel Fulwiler May 3, became a widow September 13, and became of age September 18, all in 1813.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS BERRY, Kennet, [Penna., Nov.] 12, 1813.

Discusses an amicable suit concerning business transactions of Daniel Mifflin, Samuel Howell and Jabez Jenkins before 1806. Asks advice about a written statement to be exhibited to the referee. Mentions Mrs. . . . Berry and Michael Magear of Wilmington.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.9cm. x 19.6cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [CHARLES GEORGE RIDGELY], and M[ARY] R. [MRS. WILLIAM] M[ORRIS, Dover], Dec. 29, 1813.

Charles George [Ridgely] acknowledges his father's recent letter, tells of turning out [the teacher] Mr. . . . Hinckley, and of a ball given before [the dancing master] Mr. . . . Meteyer's visit to Philadelphia. [His cousin] William [Morris] is ill. Promises to obey his aunt.

Mary asks her brother to lay down a rule for his son's study time for he wishes to be out the whole day. She does not know what should be required of him. Mentions that he had been ill from a cold caught while gunning with Joshua Clayton.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MRS.] H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 11, 1814.

Asks for a dollar to give "a poor woman [who] is almost starving." His cousins William and Ann[a Maria Morris] have both been ill. Mentions Mr. . . . Meteyer, "Poll", and Aunt [Mary Morris]. Has taken one fencing lesson.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25.3cm.

[HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 30, 1813 [1814].

Refers to the deaths of old Mr. [Charles] Hillyard, Daniel Ryley, and Jabez Jenkins of Camden. Mentions his teacher Mr. . . . Hinkley, and his dancing master Mr. . . . Meteyer who holds classes Saturdays and Mondays. The Legislature is still in session. Aunt [Mary Morris] says he is extravagant to have needed two pairs of shoes since his father left. William [Morris] has been ill most of the time since Christmas.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, in Congress, Washington, from JOHN RANDOLPH OF ROANOKE, Richmond, [Va.], Feb. 2, 1814.

"The great Lord Chief" [Chief Justice John Marshall] is bringing with him six twists of prime chewing tobacco, a gift for Mr. Ridgely from Mr. Randolph. Describes the method of preparing it. Only lack of time prevented him from also sending a full discussion of his political views, since he trusts both Mr. Ridgely's integrity and his discretion.

A. L. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 25cm. [1 enclosure].

J[OHN] RANDOLPH [OF ROANOKE, Richmond, Va.], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 18, 1814.

Prizes the tobacco, both for its quality and its source. Agrees that the opposition to the Administration has handled its case so poorly it cannot hope to win the next election on its own merits, and sees little hope for future improvement. Eagerly awaits his friend's "packet" of political comment. Debate on "the Loan Bill" is dragging to a close. Promises copies of the major speeches.

A. Cy. S., 2 pp., 19.6cm. x 25cm. [Enclosed with entry above].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES GEORGE RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 23, 1814.

Looks forward to seeing his parents next month. Tells of a fire which threatened their smoke house and may have damaged much of the meat. Aunt [Mary Morris] asks if Mrs. Ridgely would like their house aired and put in order before she returns. Mentions Mrs. [James] Schee, [Negro] Andrew and William and Ann[a Maria Morris].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 3, 1814.

Tells of the sudden death of "Old Charles". Alludes to the Morris children and to [Negroes] Caty, Abraham and Cyrus. Inquires for the family, particularly "Sister" [Elizabeth Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 6, 1814.

"Cousin Betsy McClements" [Mrs. Robert McClyment] is ill. Refers to Mr. . . . Meteyer, and to a new member of the dancing class, James Sykes from Philadelphia. Was not invited to "the Milford ball" which proved "but mean; the room was not large enough." Mentions his family and "Cousin Betsy's [McClyment] child".

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 11, 1813 [1814].

Tells of the death and burial of Mrs. William McClyment. Says he and Samuel Harrington were "eight Fables ahead of Alfred Sykes and Joshua Clayton but Mr. . . . Hinckley turned us back." Mentions William and Ann[a Maria Morris]. Asks for some marbles. Lists the misspelled words in his father's letter.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, City of Washington, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 15, 1814.

Cousin Betsy McClyment is better. James Sykes was injured slightly while trying to break a colt. Mr. . . . McMullen is believed recovering from "typus feaver", brought into the neighborhood by Mr. . . . Carter, who, with several of his family, died of it. There have been more deaths in Camden than in Dover. Refers to the [Morris] family. [Negroes] "Andrew and James want T coffee and sugar and where to get it at."

[Mrs. Mary Morris adds a note asking if the \$1.25 of her brother's funds she has shall be spent for provisions for Andrew and Jem.]

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 21, 1814.

Complains of receiving no letters. Tells of much illness in the neighborhood and many deaths, including those of five members of Mr. . . . Hardcastle's household and Mrs. . . . Mol[l]eston. Asks if he must attend dancing school if the

master recruits the necessary fifteen pupils to teach another quarter. "Dranke supper" at Uncle [Nicholas] Ridgely's. Mentions the [Morris] family, and a ball at Captain [Jacob] Furbee's.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 27, 1814.

Mr. . . . McCall and Mr. Robert McClyment are both dead. Mrs. [Robert] McClyment is improving. Says [his teacher] Mr. . . . Hinckley "has signed his name for to go to da[n]cing school if he keeps here another quarter," that he has forty-four pupils, and that the second quarter has just closed. "I believe that almost all the men will move out of Dover."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from W[ILLIA]M WHITELY, Whiteleysburg, [Del.], May 10, 1814.

Wishes Robert Young, Vincent Moore and McKemmy Smack summoned "in a case concerning the administrator of Tho[ma]s Lowber, dec'd., W[illia]m Hatfield and W[illia]m Russum."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from A[LLEN] McLANE, Collector's Office, Wilmington, May 26, 1814.

Wishes Mr. Ridgely to be present at a "consultation of the defense against [A. T.] Dallas, [Alexander] Murray & Co.". Expects "the [Federal] marshal" to pack the jury against him. Would greatly appreciate having Nicholas Ridgely appear in his behalf as he would have great influence with the court. Claims that "Dallas and Murray have damaged me to the amount of thousands by taking by force and distributing among the officers in Philad[elphi]a that which in Law is the right of the officers of Delaware".

L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

ALLEN McLANE, Esq., Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, May 30, 1814.

Acknowledges the letter of May 26th and enclosure which were delivered to the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely]. Regrets he cannot attend the next session of the Circuit Court in New Castle.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 16.5cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from N. S. WILLIAMSON, Wilmington, July 11, 1814.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to notify Judge [John] Fisher that he is anxious to have the claim of Samuel McLane's administrators against Mr. . . . Miller's representatives promptly settled, but insists that certain Miller estate claims against the McLane estate receive simultaneous consideration.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from NATH[ANIE]L SMITHERS, [Dover], Sept. 2, 1814.

Acknowledges a note relating to Joseph Barker's suit against Francis Reynolds. Is not Barker's agent and knows nothing of the dispute, but does have the pertinent books in his possession. Will notify Caleb Sipple, the agent.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 18cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY and T[HOMAS] CLAYTON, Dover, from A[LLEN] McLANE, Wilmington, Oct. 24, 1814.

Discusses the selection of a jury to try his suit with Alexander Murray, and the possibility of further delay, which Mr. C. Ingersoll thinks likely and desirable. Though he prefers to have the case heard in Dover, he will not object to New Castle if [Nicholas] Vandike will accept "an honest jury". Must "attend Gen[era]l Gaens [E. P. Gaines] at the Pea Patch" in regard to the defense of the Delaware. Appeals for support in his own "defence against this monster Murry", whom he suspects [Mr.] Vandike will have in Dover, "tampering with my Enemys." Encloses a jury list and Mr. Ingersoll's letter.

A. L. S., 2 + 1 + 2 pp., 33.5cm. x 20.6cm. [2 enclosures].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MATHEW DRIVER, Caroline [County, Md.], Nov. 6, 1814.

The money for which Mr. Ridgely offered his note can now be obtained. Asks to be notified by the bearer whether he still wishes the transaction completed. Mentions Mr. . . . Hughlett.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from PETER CONRAD, Phila[delphia], Nov. 11, 1814.

Mrs. [Mary] Fulweiler's birth date is recorded in the family *Bible* now in possession of her sister, Mrs. [Ellinor] Brinckley of Milford. Mentions Jonathan Collins and Mathew Owens as persons well acquainted with the [Mifflin] estate.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JO[H]N A. BANNING, Wilmington, Nov. 14, 1814.

Following Mr. Ridgely's suggestion he learned from Dr. [William] McKee what taxes were due on the farms mentioned and sent the proper amount to Mr. . . . Wolcott. Will settle his share of the taxes on the farm where Mr. . . . Smith lives when he comes to Dover soon.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, George Town, Sussex County, Del., from MATHEW DRIVER, Denton, [Md.], Nov. 15, 1814.

Repeats the contents of his letter of [Nov. 6], to which he refers. Wishes to know at once if he shall present the note to the Board of the Bank at Denton for discount. Starts in two weeks for Annapolis, [Md.] and will see Mr. Ridgely "on my way round for that place."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 26cm.

M[ATTHEW] DRIVER, Esq., near Denton, Md., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 23, 1814.

Explains why he has not replied previously and says he does not now want the money requested of the Directors of the Bank of Caroline. Mentions his going to Washington and Mr. Driver to Annapolis.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN A. BANNING, Wilmington, Dec. 15, 1814.

Sends an itemized statement of certain financial transactions between W[illia]m Lowber & Co., James M. Broom and himself. Asks advice about pressing for payment of \$5,000 at once and taking W[illia]m Lowber's personal bond and mortgage to secure the balance.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 4, 1815.

Acknowledges several recent letters from his father and the poetry from Mrs. [William] Reed, which he is memorizing. Has completed the first chapter of *Selecta Profanis*. Mr. Hays thinks the proposal for the Legislature "to move to Willmington" will pass.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], House of Representatives, [Washington], Jan. 14, 1815.

Arrived last night in Washington but has not yet been to Mrs. Wadsworth's. Promises to write when he is settled.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 15, 1815.

Has rejoined his old mess and thinks his new room will prove satisfactory. Discusses securing a nurse for Mrs. Ridgely's approaching confinement. Tells of his trip down. Saw Betsy and [John] Davis in Wilmington, and his Aunt [Elizabeth] Dorsey and the Sullivan family at Baltimore. The Sullivans' infant son will be named Thomas, Jeremiah or Henry. Sent *Selecta Profanis* to Charles [George Ridgely]; reminds him to study it carefully. Has not yet seen "the ruins" in Washington. There is much anxiety about the fate of New Orleans. Wishes Charles [George Ridgely] to study the map of the region and carefully consult it as he follows accounts of the campaign. Mentions Mrs. Polly Boyer; Mr. [Peter] Caverly; Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey; Mr. [James A.] Bayard; Mr. [V. E.] Loocker-man; Brinton's [Tavern, Wilmington]; Barney's Tavern, [Baltimore]; and McCoy's Tavern.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 20, 1815.

In accordance with his father's request, he has located New Orleans on the map; reports what he has found. The family is anxious for papers bringing news of the City's defense. "Little Bets" [Elizabeth Ridgely] is well and "mischeveous".

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 20, 1814 [1815].

Comments on her husband's living arrangements, [her sister] Betsy Davis' failure to deliver her watch, and little Elizabeth's [Ridgely] cuteness. Mentions "your Aunt [Mrs. Thomas] Dorsey and Matilda [Sullivan, née Dorsey]". Fears Charles [George Ridgely], though he is very manageable, reads daily from the *Bible* and "Brooks" [Gazeteer] and studies geography, will miss his father's supervision. Asks for all the news of Washington, "something about poor Mrs. . . . Hamilton" particularly.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, and S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 23, 25, 1815.

Charles George [Ridgely] acknowledges a letter of the 20th, with an enclosure he has lent to Uncle [Nicholas] Ridgely. The Morris family is ill, William seriously so. Refers to the death of Dr. Whilbank [Robert Wiltbank] of Lewiston [Lewes, Del.], and to his funeral sermon, preached in the State House by Mr. Ridgeway. Mr. . . . Hinckley is "very irregular in taking in school."

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note telling of her worry about securing a nurse. Her brother John [Banning] and Ann Caverly are visiting.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY, Washington], Jan. 26, 1815.

Fears the bad roads will delay his letter as they did those he just received from his wife and son. Is glad Mrs. [Robert] McClyment will be with her, and urges her to be certain of her arrangements for a nurse. Hopes to be home before their child's birth. May have to draw on funds left in the bank for household needs, since the Sergeant-at-Arms has told him "there was not a cent in the Treasury or elsewhere with which to pay the members of Congress, and he did not know when there would be any. You see therefore the miserable condition to which the men in power have reduced this nation!" Is pleased with her account of their son's conduct. Reminds her of her promise to have each of the children wear a leather bag filled with camphor, tied around the neck with a black ribbon and removed only while bathing. This is said to be a protection against sore throat and infectious diseases and "can do no harm." There is no news from New Orleans. Reminds his family he can bring no presents if Congressmen are not paid.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 27, 1815.

Has been troubled with a headache arising "from want of exercise and want of bleeding." Has been kept indoors by the bad weather, and has had difficulty getting lazy [Negro] Jim to supply enough firewood to keep the house warm. There has been much illness, but their own family remains well. The Morrisises, who "do not . . . breathe fresh air enough to keep healthy," are "indisposed." Charles and David Harper, sons of [Rachel] Harper, widow [of William], have both died. John

Banning, Ann Caverly and Betsy McClyment are all staying at the Ridgely home. Elizabeth [Ridgely], who adores her uncle [Nicholas Ridgely], sends a message to her "dear papa." The Delaware Legislature remains in session.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 28, 1815.

Complains that neither he nor his mother has received any reply to their recent letters. "Uncle John Banning was scared away he was afraid of the Typhus Feaver," from which "Uncle Ridgely's [servant] Ralph" is suffering. William Morris is ill.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 23.8cm.

CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 29, 1815.

Speaks of military movements in the South, suggesting that his son follow the campaign carefully in the newspapers and trace it on the map. Recommends Carey's *Atlas* and Brooke's *Gazeteer*. Mentions *Selecta Profanis*. Wishes him to memorize an enclosed selection from Sir William Jones' *Game of Chips*, a gift of Mrs. [William] Reed.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 29, 1815.

Thinks Charles [George Ridgely] will soon write a good letter, though he still finds it difficult to "find subject to fill a page." No one is ill in Dover except William Morris, but there have been many deaths nearby. "The Chancellor's servant" has measles, not "the fever" as their son wrote. Mentions Mrs. [William] Reed of Washington.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 29, 1815.

Discusses arrangements for a substitute nurse in case of need. Is "sick and tired of this horrible place. . . . No amusement, no society. The moment you step out of doors the ruins of the public edifices present to your mind irresistible proof of the folly of the declaration of war and the imbecility and weakness of our rulers." Many public buildings are beyond repair though their walls are standing. Massive stone columns surrounding the hall of the House of Representatives "have dwindled away to little uneven posts" from the action of fire and weather.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 30, 1815.

Sends a copy of the *Intelligencer* containing an account of "military operations at New Orleans." Wishes the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] to see it.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 33.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 31, 1815.

Is glad his wife is enjoying Miss [Ann] Caverly's visit. Warns her to keep plentifully supplied with wood during the bitter cold. Sends a [National] *Intelligencer* containing the "latest news from Georgia and also the President's reasons for not signing the Bill to establish a National Bank."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 1, 1815.

Feels "dull and low-spirited." Elizabeth [Ridgely] is ill. Will fix the camphor bags at once as he asks "but I cannot imagine it will act as a preventive against an epidemick." Believes she is now certain of having her nurse.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 3, 1815.

Acknowledges letters from his wife and son. "This place is indeed most intolerably dull" and the mess less agreeable than formerly. Even the occasional evening games of chess have lost their relish. Tells of defeating Mr. [William] Read, who subsequently won from Mr. [William H.] Wells and Mr. [William] Hunter. Night before last Mr. [Outerbridge] Horsey came upon Dr. . . . Hunter's wife, whom he had been avoiding, just as she had beaten Mr. Read "four or five games" [of chess]. A match was made between them which she fairly won, much to his chagrin and the mischievous delight of the rest of the mess. "Thus our Chess champion has been vanquished by an old woman—*Sic transit gloria mundi!*" Does not know the result of the Democratic caucus on the bank issue.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 5, 1815.

Describes the "brilliant illumination" of Washington in celebration of General [Andrew] Jackson's victory of January 8th. When the Mayor's "proclamation recommending the measure" was received, their mess had twelve candles procured for

each window of the messroom, and had all other front windows of the house "lighted in the same proportion." They were among the first to light their tapers and the last to extinguish them. Urges Sally to shake off her depression, which is bad for her and for the unborn child. Hopes all necessary arrangements have been completed. Explains that letters may be delayed both because of the bad roads and because it is now difficult to get them to the post office promptly. Sends his son a published account of the victory at New Orleans. There is still, however, some fear for the city because of the presence of the British fleet. It is reported that the British were so confident they brought civil officers along with the attacking forces.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 6, 1815.

Sends a [*National*] *Intelligencer* containing "Gen[eral Andrew] Jackson's official account of his victory of the 8th ult. over the British Forces at [New] Orleans" to be read by his own family and Chancellor [Nicholas] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 6, 1815.

Has employed an excellent white girl. Is eager for her husband's return and feels "light at heart" at the thought this is their last winter of separation. Dr. [William] Morris' family is still indisposed; William [Morris] is recovering, but she fears the infant is dying. Describes its symptoms. Elizabeth [Ridgely] is better. Speaks of Ann Caverly, Mr. and Mrs. [Thomas] Davy, and Ann McClyment.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 7, 1815.

Is reading aloud *The Recluse of Norway* by Anna Maria Porter, with Mr. and Mrs. [William] Read and Mr. [William H.] Wells. Thinks [Outerbridge] Horsey who "cannot bear to listen to us a moment" may soon rebel at being excluded from the tea-room. Mentions Mr. [William] Hunter and Mr. [Thomas] Cooper.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

e, ss.

THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

To Henry M. Ridgely, Esq.

KNOW you, That We, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your INTEGRITY, VALOR, CONDUCT and FIDELITY, have constituted and appointed, and, by these Presents, do constitute and appoint you to be *Lieutenant Colonel* of the *first* Regiment of Militia: You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Lieutenant Colonel* *commandant* by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging: And all Officers and Soldiers, under your Command, are hereby strictly charged and required to be obedient to your orders, as *Lieut. Colonel* *commandant*. So you are likewise to observe and follow such Orders and Directions, from Time, to Time, as you shall receive from the Governor of this State, for the Time being, or from any of your Superior Officers according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force for Seven Years, unless sooner lawfully annulled, and made void. IN TESTIMONY whereof, the Great Seal of the State is hereunto affixed.

Geo. Smith

WITNESS *George Smith* Governor of the said State, at *Dover* — the *twenty ninth* day of *March* in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and *eight* and in the *thirty second* year of the Independence of the said State.

BY THE GOVERNOR,

Wm. Clayton
Secretary of the State of Delaware.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 8, 1815.

Tells of the death of Louisa [Morris], his infant cousin. Has read in Roman history to the reign of Trajan, but not as far as he should have done in the *Bible*. "Dover is very handsomely illuminated" [in celebration of Jackson's victory at New Orleans].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [HENRY M. RIDGELY], Washington, Feb. 9, 1815.

Hopes Ann Caverly can stay for some time; is certain his wife enjoys her company. Believes Sally sees more company than he does, for this session there is no sociability among the members of Congress, and the Federalists have received little attention from the local residents since the discussion of "the removal of the government." Enjoys their own messroom, however, more than formal parties. Wishes he were "done with Washington."

A. L. [S. implied] 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Feb. 10, 1815.

Speaks of the "hurry and bustle" of her daily routine, of her approaching confinement, and of the reading parties her husband is enjoying in Washington. Asks him to bring home a copy of the book, for she hopes to do much reading when her company is gone. Would like to belong to "such a rational club." Because of the death of Mary's [Mrs. William Morris] infant, their house was dark during the general illumination of the town in celebration of Gen. [Andrew] Jackson's victory. Dover "looked very pretty . . . [and] there was something enlivening in the appearance of the town." Lavinia Hillyard and James Warner were married [Feb. 8].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 12, 1815.

Mr. [John] McMullen died yesterday after three days' delirium, during which he could not be kept from his shop. Dr. [William] Morris attended sixteen patients after dinner yesterday, most of them suffering from "the Thyphus." Ann Caverly goes home tomorrow.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 12, 1815.

Complains of receiving so few letters. Is worried because Charles [George Ridgely] was commissioned to write the last letter he received, and said nothing of his mother's health. The British have "certainly abandoned" their expedition against New Orleans. Cannot believe the report that before the attack the officers offered their men "the violation of the women" when the city was taken. Comments on the British loss of 2600 men to an American loss of 13. Scarcely enough British officers survived to organize the retreat. Wishes his son kept closely to his geography and other studies, and to "have gone twice thro' the *Epitome of Geography*" before his own return.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 13, 1815.

Displays his knowledge of Latin in discussing the current rumors of peace. Does not believe, from what he has seen in the papers, that an illuminated ship has really arrived in New York. "I do not see peace, but I see symptoms of it."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.3cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 13, 1815.

Was alarmed last night at Elizabeth's [Ridgely] illness, but she appears much better now. Thinks worms caused the attack. Has been disappointed in getting her nurse, but hopes to secure another. Is completely satisfied with the young woman she has employed. Betsy Jester, who was recently married, asks the sum due her from [Mrs. Ann Ridgely's] estate.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 14, 1815.

Mr. [Henry] Carroll, private secretary to Mr. [Henry] Clay "one of our commissioners," arrived during the day with a treaty of peace signed at Ghent on December 24, 1814 and ratified by the Prince [Regent] of England. It is said to be an honorable settlement for the United States and plainly has Administration support. Supposes the city will again be brilliantly illuminated.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 15, 1815.

Was pleased with his father's recent letter. The papers announce that "Mr. Henry Carrell, Esq. of the Secretary of the American legation" has arrived in the British sloop *Favorite* bearing the Treaty of Peace, signed by Commissioners of both Countries.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Feb. 15, 1815.

Insists she has written regularly. Is worried about Elizabeth's [Ridgely] continued illness. "Last evening we had a grand illumination in consequence of the report of peace; every house of any note, Dr. [William] Morris' excepted, was illuminated and the town looked extremely well." Has not yet found a nurse, but her "white girl" is excellent and Mrs. [John] Whilbank [Wiltbank] will give her some assistance. Cannot believe the atrocity stories told of the British at New Orleans.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 16, 1815.

The Senate has unanimously ratified the Treaty of Peace with England. Is worried about Elizabeth's [Ridgely] illness and "Mrs. . . . Boyer's disappointing you." Thinks Betsy Jester's claim against [Mrs. Ann Ridgely's] estate should await his return for settlement.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 17, 1815.

Remains in good health and spirits. Expects her baby in about a week. Elizabeth [Ridgely] appears to have recovered completely. Reminds him of the promised doll from Georgetown, [D. C.], of which their daughter often talks. News of peace has gladdened all Dover. Asks for a present, since the war is over; wants four pocket handkerchiefs, "a handsome worked cape" and a baby cap. Also needs seeds of Early York, sugar loaf and drumhead cabbage, and salmon radish.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 19, 1815.

Hopes to be home before the baby's birth. Is uneasy about Elizabeth [Ridgely]. Sends Charles [George] a copy of the Treaty [of Ghent], ratification of which has produced an "astonishing" effect throughout the Country. "Nor do I think

the war itself has been of any disservice to the United States. In several points of view it has been of great advantage." The [Madison] Administration has been very lucky. The city was again illuminated in celebration of the ratification, and the servants "topsy turvey on the occasion." The delegates of the Hartford Convention, in their official capacity, are very coldly received even by Federalists. The sudden turn of events leaves them uncertain how to proceed.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY and S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 20, 1815.

Charles George [Ridgely] complains that his father has written several times to Mr. [Thomas] Clayton, Uncle [Nicholas] Ridgely and his mother without sending a line to him. Will not be allowed to attend the [Washington's Birthday] ball because "the thyphus feaver is raging in the neighborhood round about with itt[sic] utmost violence and whole families are consumed with it." Mr. [John] Marim is among the victims.

Mrs. Ridgely adds a note assuring her husband that the epidemic, though serious, is confined to "Jones' and Little Creek Necks." Thinks it possible her child may be born before morning.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16.3cm. x 20cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 21, 1815.

Is anxious because he has received no news from home but hopes the "terribly bad" roads explain the delay. Eagerly awaits resuming the privileges of "a private citizen, . . . the solid, substantial comforts of the domestic fireside." The City [of Washington] continues "as dull, as insipid and as irksome as ever it was."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Washington], from NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 22, 1815.

Announces the birth of [Ann Ridgely]. Baby and mother are both well. The neighborhood is "not very sickly except in Jones' Neck" where he blames the high mortality more on "want of attention and good nursing" than on the malignity of the disease. W[illia]m K. Lockwood's sister, Mrs. . . . Day, is dead. [Mr. Day] has been critically ill, as John Wilds now is. Though the Articles of Peace are "a mere Pacification" which settle no basic issues, the recent signal victories will enhance American prestige and injure Britain's. Comments scornfully

that [James] Madison will now "be celebrated as a wise and great statesman. [James] Monroe . . . will probably be elevated to the Presidency for his mighty Services!" Hears flour is \$12.00 a barrel at Philadelphia and Indian corn \$.75 per bushel at Smyrna. Merchants are reducing prices "slowly and reluctantly." Only . . . Kimmy who is said to have "laid in a full store . . . of course at a high price "has much stock on hand. Asks about the probability of Bolitha Laws being appointed a midshipman.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 22, 1815.

Tells of the birth of his sister [Ann Ridgely] who everybody says "is the handsomest child that ever you had." Mother "has been better this time than ever she has been." She wants Mrs. [William] Reed to choose her "a linnen cambrick and lace for it [the infant]."

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.3cm. x 20cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 23, 1815.

Will purchase garden seed when he goes to Georgetown, [D. C.] since it cannot be procured in Washington. Mrs. [William] Reed promises to "execute the commission you desired me to ask." His own room is so cold he must write in the dining room where "[William H.] Wells and [Outerbridge] Horsey are playing battledore." Complains that letters must be finished before dinner to catch the mail.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 24, 1815.

Trusts that their child is by now born and that Sally is recovering rapidly. Gives "him" a hearty welcome. Has his own books packed and has, with Mr. [William H.] Wells, hired "William Coster's hack and four horses . . . to be off from this place." Mrs. [William] Reed has not yet secured the articles Mrs. Ridgely wants, but hopes to do so in time to send them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 24, 1815.

Feels "so uncommonly strong" that she is writing to assure her husband she is in excellent health after a short and easy labor, and that she is being well cared for by Mrs. [John] Whiltbank [Wiltbank], B[etsy] McClyment and Eliza [Moore].

The baby [Ann Ridgely], "one of the prettiest infants I have ever had" will not be named until her father's return. Hopes her beauty will "reconcile you to the sex."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 27, 1815.

Is hurt at receiving no letters from his father when he has written so many times to others. Mother [Mrs. Henry Ridgely] is improving rapidly. Mr. . . . Vanpelt died recently of pleurisy. "Our office is full of men playing chess." Mentions Mr. [Thomas] Clayton, Dr. . . . Naudine [Naudain] and Mr. . . . Hays.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Feb. 28, 1815.

Has received no news from home, but blames the extremely bad roads. Considers himself "extravagant" in his choice of a gift for the infant. In honor of Elizabeth's [Ridgely] birthday he entertained his messmates and [his landlady] and her children. Hopes to leave for home on Saturday but cautions his wife not to worry if his arrival is delayed. Will go to Annapolis instead of Baltimore, since the roads are better, and if it is safe to cross the [Chesapeake] Bay will come up the peninsula. Mrs. [William] Reed is anxious to travel up through Delaware and may attempt the bay crossing with their party if conditions seem favorable.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from A[LLEN] McLANE, Wilmington, April 26, 1815.

Encloses a jury list. Asserts that [CaesarA.] "Rodney and [Nicholas] Vandike has become gracious towards each other" and fears to entrust himself to some of the jurors admitted, though Mr. . . . Hopkinson [one of his attorneys] reassures him. Says [Nicholas] Vandike wanted "some of the smugglers in and about Wilmington and New Castle" drawn for jury duty. Complains bitterly of the President [James Madison], A. T. Dallas of the Treasury, his opponent [Alexander] Murray, the District Attorney, and Nicholas Vandike. Encloses a copy of a letter from Dallas advising him to seek the opinion of the District Attorney in the case of the *Lydia*. Hopes the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] can appear for him.

A. L. S., 3pp. + 2, 20.8cm. x 34.5cm. [2 enclosures].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ISAAC GIBBS, "Levels", [Warwick, Md.], July 10, 1815.

Will post the advertisements announcing the sale of Walter Dulany estate lands, and hopes to attend. Tells of "several wood pilferers" whom he hopes to catch, and to convict despite the difficulty of getting neighborhood witnesses to testify in such cases.

A. L. S. 1 p. 17cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN CUMMINS, Smyrna, [Del.], Sept. 28, 1815.

Explains the background of a case arising from a petition to divide lands in which G. Kennard, deceased, had a claim, and the steps he wishes taken to protect the interests of his wards, the minors George, Mary and Henry Kennard. Mentions James Raymond.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

RICHARD H. BAYARD, Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 17, 1815.

Consents, without "any the least objection," to becoming one of the securities for [Mrs. James A. Bayard] "in her guardianship of her three eldest children."

A. Cy. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 19.6cm.

J[OHN] CLARKE, ["Canaan Farm", Del.], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Oct. 22, 1815.

Discusses Mrs. James A. Bayard's sureties for her guardianship of her children, explaining a proposed change to meet the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] requirements. Mentions O[uterbridge] Horsey, L[ouis] McLane, J. Read, . . . Lee, and John Lowber.

A. Df. S., 1 p., 16cm. x 20cm. [Enclosed with entry below].

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN CLARKE, "Canaan Farm", [Del.], Oct. 22, 1815.

Agrees to serve as surety for Mrs. [James A.] Bayard according to the Chancellor's plan. Since his [hog] killing is over he can attend the Orphans' Court to be held at John Lowber's in New Castle.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from T[HOMAS] CLAYTON, Washington, Jan. 1, 1815 [1816].

Col. [Allen] McLane is seeking reimbursement from the Treasury for the expenses of his defense against [Alexander] Murray's suit, and wishes Mr. Ridgely's receipt for \$200.00 counsel fee to present with his other accounts.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[THOMAS CLAYTON, Washington], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 5, 1816.

Sends the requested receipt for Col. [Allen] McLane, empowering Mr. Clayton to receive payment for him.

Appends a note stating that the bill was not paid and the receipt was returned.

A. Cy. S., 20cm. x 25cm. [On same sheet as letter from T. Clayton to H. M. Ridgely incorrectly dated Jan. 1, 1815].

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S COOPER, Wash[in]gt[on], Jan. 3, 1815 [1816].

Encloses a receipt for taxes on Washington lots belonging to the Walter Dulany estate. Asks about paying "the corporation taxes for 1815." Expects to have a pleasant mess at Queen's Hotel. [Thomas] Clayton, [William H.] Wells, Col. and Mrs. [Benjamin] Talmadge, Mrs. Talmadge's son, and Miss . . . Davenport will live there. A bill for "establishing additional military academies" is under discussion. Thinks West Point will be enlarged.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from W[ILLIAM] H[ILL] WELLS, City of Washington, Jan. 10, 1816.

Entertainingly describes their living quarters, and efforts to bribe the servants for an extra share of firewood. Evenings are spent "in a ring around a fire that would not roast a kill-dee." Mediterranean typhus has appeared in Washington, to add to the town's other shortcomings. Writes at length of Miss . . . Davenport, "a sweet little Prodigy with the prettiest Hair you ever saw—but she has posed [Thomas] Cooper and [Thomas] Clayton at Chemistry, Divinity, almost at Law, at Physick, History, Belles Lettres . . . Clayton says she is sharpening her teeth to begin on me." She has already defeated him at chess. Speaks critically of [John] Randolph, who is upholding the proposition that laws in violation of treaties must be specifically repealed. Refers to Col. [Benjamin] and Mrs. Talmadge, Miss . . . Talmadge and the two Misses Davenport.

A. L. S. 9 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. HENRY [M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. JOHN] DAVIS, Warwick, . . ., Jan. 24, [1816].

Tells of the final illness of Dr. [William] McKee. Regrets that Mrs. Ridgely could not be with him, for he was very fond of her. Was shocked and hurt by "Brother's [John Banning] unfeeling conduct." Their sister [Mary McKee] will miss her father deeply.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES I. DUPONT, ["Louvier"], near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 19, 1816.

A note of appreciation for a "suit of beautiful black cloth of your manufactory."

A. Df. S. 1 p. 16.4cm. x 12cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from THO[MA]S COOPER, Wash[in]g[ton], Mar. 12, 1816.

Cannot attend to the case of John D. Smith of Milton, [Delaware], so refers it to Mr. Ridgely. It concerns a contested award for damages in a condemnation proceeding. Briefly discusses the Bank Bill now under consideration [in Congress] and likely to pass.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from THO[MA]S COOPER, Wash[in]g[ton], Mar. 24, 1816.

The Delaware delegation in Congress is doing what it can to carry out the Legislature's instructions regarding the direct Federal tax, and "get the evil remedied, but as the tax has been paid you must see that difficulties exist respecting the correction of what has passed." It also has an appointment with the Secretary of War to discuss the State's militia claim. Asks Mr. Ridgely to take over the portion of his law business he cannot handle because of absence during court terms. Comments on "Your old friend Parson [Samuel] Taggart", a man of sixty, who married "a girl of 25." The clergyman had applied for admission to their mess, but changed his mind "upon hearing that we were not of the psalm singing sort."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JACOB BOONE, Frederica, [Del.], Aug. 7, 1816.

Wishes to enter an amicable suit against Mr. [Thomas] Latchum, administrator of Caleb Boyer, deceased, for the settlement of certain accounts against the estate.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THO[MA]S COOPER, Steam Boat *Fulton*, Long Island Sound, Aug. 12, 1816.

Bitterly discusses the [Federalist] Party's failure to re-nominate him and [Thomas] Clayton as Representatives in Congress. Has foresworn all future public office or party service; "I am done with politicks." Thinks the present temper of Sussex County guarantees a Democratic victory. Criticizes Clayton's decision to enter the campaign. May visit New Haven, [Connecticut], Ballston, [New York], Montreal, and Quebec before returning in mid-October.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 19.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], George Town, Del., April 27, 1817.

Though Court is "dull and unprofitable" he must remain because of certain suits on the list. Asks to have his greatcoat sent down by Tuesday's stage, for he must start home before daybreak and he does not wish to suffer from the cold as he did coming down.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MATTHEW DRIVER, D[enton, Md.], Sept. 9, 1817.

Sends his note and \$110.00 by Henry Godwin. Authorizes him to accept "any part that you can possibly get" of the money due from . . . Newcombe." His son Augustus [Driver] has died since the family's last visit to Dover, and his youngest child is still ill. His wife, Charity [Driver, née Alford], is not well, mainly he believes, because of fatigue and loss of sleep during the children's illnesses.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from CH[AR]L[E]S POLK, M[ilford], [Del.], Mar. 19, 1818.

Wishes Mr. Ridgely to take whatever steps he thinks proper to recover damages from Matthew Owens and Walter Douglass. On a judgement against his tenant Draper Silva they entered upon land of his against his express order and seized a crop, part of which was due him as rent.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JA[ME]S M. BROOM, Wilmington, April 21, 1818.

Wishes Mr. Ridgely to determine whether Jonathan Lord's real property is of sufficient value to justify entering a judgement on an originally enclosed bond. Asks him to proceed with the business himself, hand it over to Mr. . . . Clayton, or return the bond, as his judgement dictates.

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 33.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JA[ME]S M. BROOM, Philad[elphi]a, May 26, 1818.

Agrees that the execution of his bond against [Jonathan] Lord is at present useless.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. DANIEL] LOWBER, Phila[delphia], May 6, [c. 1819].

Offers best wishes for the welfare of Mrs. Ridgely's expected infant. Describes Mr. Summerfield, a young Methodist preacher of unusual ability whom she recently heard. Wishes Mr. Ridgely would purchase "Eden Park", Peter Bauduy's property near Wilmington, which has been advertised at Sheriff's sale.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

COL. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOSEPH HASLET, Cedar Creek, Sussex [County, Del.], April 11, 1820.

An [originally] enclosed document gives the necessary facts concerning certain business Mr. Haslet's sister is anxious to have settled. Alludes to a recent "severe affliction" in his family and to the grave illness of one of his children. Mentions Dr. [George] Monro and Judge [John] Fisher.

A. L. S. 1 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from N[ICHOLA]S VAN DYKE, New Castle, Del., June 8, 1820.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to attend to a case before the Court of Appeals for him, since his son Nicholas' [Van Dyke] illness keeps him at home. Explains the necessary steps, and difficulty he has had in securing official transcripts of the records. Mentions Major Kollock and . . . Allee.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 32cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MATT[HEW] DRIVER, Denton, [Md.], June 16, 1920.

Encloses a note for discount at the [Farmers] Bank, with directions for transferring the sum if the bank makes the loan.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

[MATTHEW DRIVER, Denton, Md.], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, June 23, 1820.

Regrets that the directors of the Farmers Bank can offer the limited credit now available only to residents of Delaware.

A. Cy. S., 1 p., 20.5cm. x 25cm. [On reverse of letter above].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MATT[HEW] DRIVER, Denton, [Md.], Feb. 1, 1821.

Has received no reply to a request made some time since for advice about the settlement of the estate of Dr. Robert Stevens. His brother, then the administrator, is now dead and he himself has taken out letters D. B. N. upon the estate. Asks the status of the suits against . . . Douglass and . . . Collisan, and whether any further action on his part is necessary. Mentions [his wife] Charity [Driver].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from RICH[AR]D H. BAYARD, Philad[elph]ia, Feb. 15, 1821.

Inquires about a sale of property in July, 1819, in which his mother, [Mrs. James A. Bayard], Dr. Gillaspy, Daniel Kendrick's estate, and former sheriff John Robinson were concerned.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.4cm. x 25cm.

RICHARD H. BAYARD, Phila[delphia], from H. M. RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 28, 1821.

States what he knows of the transaction involving Daniel Kendrick's estate. Had no authority to sell the property for Mrs. [James A.] Bayard. Referred inquiries about it made by John Robinson and Joshua Deputy to Mr. George Gillespy. Thinks Levin B. Godwin of Sussex County knows the value of the property and the prospects for selling it.

A. Cy. S., 1 p., 19.4cm. x 25cm. [On same sheet with entry above].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS FISHER, Milford, Del., Mar. 23, 1821.

Appreciates Mr. Ridgely's courtesy in respect to a threatened suit in the Court of Common Pleas. Thinks the debt involved has been paid by Charles Watson, acting for his own former partner, Watson Robinson. Complains of having just received a letter from Dover written February 28th. Mentions Mr. . . . Warner; and the Milford postmaster, John Revil.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN CUMMINS, Smyrna, [Del.], July 31, 1821.

Asks Mr. Ridgely's assistance, in case Mr. [Willard] Hall is out of town, in protecting the rights of a Negro woman about to be illegally sold out of the State. Refers to James Spear, Jr., and Gerrey Longfellow.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIA]M HILL WELLS, Dagsborough, [Del.], Nov. 4, 1821.

His son, John D. Wells, plans to practice law in Philadelphia. Asks Mr. Ridgely to circulate, in Kent County, the recommendation "young Mr. [James] Booth" has prepared for signature by the Bench and Bar of the State. Would also greatly appreciate any letters of introduction he may care to give, or recommendations he may secure from persons outside the legal profession.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JO[SHUA] RICHARDSON, Elkton, [Md.], April 24, 1822.

Sends \$112.00 for wages due [the Dulany estate] for the use of the Negro Eleanor and her children. Does not feel that interest is owed, since no previous demand for payment has been presented.

[Henry M. Ridgely appends a copy of a receipted bill for the amount.]

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ELI K. PRICE, Philad[elphi]a, Nov. 6, 1822.

Inquires whether anything has been collected for "the late firm of Weems & Rawlings" against Presley Allee.

A. L. S. 1 + 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

ELI K. PRICE, Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 18, 1822.

Prior judgements absorbed the whole proceeds of a sale of Mr. Allee's property, leaving nothing for the firm of Weems, Rawlins & Company. Annexes a copy of his unpaid bill for services during the years 1816-1819.

A. Cy. S., 2 pp., 19.5cm. x 25cm. [On same sheet as entry above].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from BENJAMIN BURTON, Millsborough, Sussex [County], Del., Mar. 12, 1823.

Quotes prices on shingles of various types, delivered at Little Creek Landing.

A. L. S. 1 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES WILSON, Wilmington, May 30, 1823.

Subscriptions to the *Watchman* cannot be terminated before July, according to the terms of the contract. Will call shortly for the amount due for the current year, \$7.50.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from [GOVERNOR-ELECT] SAMUEL PAYNTER, Dover, Jan. 19, 1824.

Formally offers Mr. Ridgely the office of Secretary of State of Delaware.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from SAM[UE]L PAYNTER, Dover, Jan. 19, 1824.

[The Governor-elect] expresses his gratification that Mr. Ridgely has accepted the position of Secretary of State of Delaware. His commission will be made out and signed after the inauguration. Asks a personal interview.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from HENRY WHITELY, New Ark, Del., Mar. 16, 1824.

Notifies Mr. Ridgely of his election to the Board of Trustees of New Ark Academy and requests his attendance at a public examination April 15, [1824].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 24.9cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from EBIN[EZE]R BLACKISTON, Smyrna, [Del.], Mar. 22, 1824.

States in detail his case against Peter Griffin, a Negro farm hand whose debts he paid and for whose family he provided as advance payment for ten-months' work which the man later refused to complete. Wishes Mr. Ridgely to appear against "this fellow" since he himself is confined to his house.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 15.7cm. x 19.8cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ELI K. PRICE, Philad[elphi]a, May 5, 1824.

The firm of Weems and Rawlings is completely insolvent, so cannot pay Mr. Ridgely's bill for the expenses of the suit against Presley Allee. Asks him to collect a debt from Daniel Mifflin of Camden for Ab[raha]m L. Pennock.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, "Linden", [Del.], from T[HOMAS] S. HILLYARD, [n.p.], June 12, 1824.

Begs her advice in regard to his courtship of her sister Mary [McKee], who has refused him after long encouragement. Asks an opportunity to defend himself against any accusation that may have been made against him. Refers to Miss . . . Johns, a deceased mutual friend, and to a previous occasion when he sought Mrs. Ridgely's help.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.8cm.

CADET C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], June 21, 1824.

Introduces James Clayton, who is entering the [Military] Academy. Asks his son to befriend the boy, since he is unusually young and his preparation is somewhat defective.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY D. [M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from ELI K. PRICE, Philad[elphia], Aug. 16, 1824.

Inquires about the account against [Daniel] Mifflin.

A. L. S. 1 + 1 pp. 20.7cm. x 24.7cm.

[ELI K. PRICE, Philadelphia], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, [post Aug. 16, 1824].

Mr. Mifflin has promised to meet the obligation but has not yet done so. His property is so encumbered it is useless to sue him.

A. Df. S., 1 p., 20.7cm. x 24.7cm. [On reverse of entry above].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from MATHEW CAREY, Philad[elphi]a, Oct. 29, 1824.

Sends copies of "a Memorial" to be handed to "some of the leading Members of your legislature", and asks him to circulate for signatures "a post paper" he will receive in a few days, since he understands "from our mutual friend Mr. [William] Young that you take a lively interest in the success of Manufactures."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, near Dover, from G. CUMMINS, [n.p.], Mar. 23, 1825.

Asks if the estate of Samuel Patterson is entitled, during the child's minority, to the services of a Negro boy purchased from the lad's own father. Also wishes to know if "the Orphans' Court is always open at the will of the Chancellor" to consider pressing matters.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16.8cm. x 20.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from KENDAL BATSON, Lewis Town, [Del.], May 5, 1825.

Asks advice about seeking appointment as Register of Wills for Sussex County. Understands that the Governor [Samuel Paynter] considers naming his brother Cornelius Paynter, but that many think the move "would injure our politicks" since the man is "not acquainted with public business." Must resign his own office because the salary is too small.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

CADET C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, June 8, 1825.

Sends the requested \$30.00. Wishes his son success in the forthcoming examinations and urges him to make wise use of his time, for both his own and his Country's sake.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] M. BLACK, New Castle, [Del.], June 14, 1825.

Introduces Mr. . . . Little, agent of Yates & McIntyre, who "has charge of the Tickets in the Delaware Lotteries purchased by them." He needs advice about selection of employes and the best method of disposing of tickets in the lower part of the State, and "as he is a stranger he has to rely on the friends of the Institutions interested in the scheme."

A. L. S. 1 p. 15.8cm. x 19.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from PETER CAVERLY, Farmers Bank, Wilmington, June 17, 1826.

Authorizes Mr. Ridgely to "enter full satisfaction on the Docket" for payment of Nathan Green's bond assigned to the bank by Nicholas G. Williamson.

[Addressed on cover to Cornelius P. Comegys, cashier.]

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from N. G. WILLIAMSON, [Wilmington], Aug. 24, 1826.

Explains what he wishes done about an installment now overdue "in the case of Hunn to Sappington." Mrs. [N. G.] Williamson is recovering.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] R[IDGELY], West Point, N. Y., Oct. 4, 1826.

Failure to receive any word from home since his return makes him increasingly uneasy. Mentions Elizabeth and Ann [Ridgely], Aunt [Mrs. W. W.] Wright, the death of Mrs. . . . Clarke and his own "course of reading" which leaves him little time for recreation.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MASON BAILEY, Smyrna Landing, [Del.], Oct. 20, 1826.

Sends Mr. . . . Delaney's [Dulany] letter, and authorizes Mr. Ridgely to use his judgement in the matter discussed. Hopes that "mine and Robert Bailey clame will Succeed the Banks".

A. L. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 22.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Secretary of State], Dover, from [GOVERNOR-ELECT] C[HARLES] POLK, Dover, Dec. 5, 1826.

At Mr. Ridgely's request notifies him that John M. Clayton is his choice for Secretary [of State]. Would be pleased to have him recommend Mr. Clayton for the interim vacancy when he himself resigns. Mentions Mr. Francis Williams.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 32.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Secretary of State, [Dover], from [GOV.] SAMUEL PAYNTER, [Dover], Dec. 18, 1826.

Directs Mr. Ridgely to prepare a commission as Secretary of State, before he resigns to assume his duties as a Representative in the General Assembly, for John M. Clayton, whom the Governor-elect, Charles Polk, has selected to hold the office during his administration.

Cy. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 21.7cm.

CHARLES [GEORGE RIDGELY, n.p.], from S[ALLY, MRS HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Jan. 1, 1827.

Expects much company since Father [H. M. Ridgely] is a member of the Legislature. Dover is "alive with Strangers". Its society is "such that I really regret living in it on account of my children". Worries over James Clayton's attentions to Elizabeth [Ridgely] whom she is anxious to "get to [boarding] school again." Disapproves Charles' own correspondence with Mary Warner. Elizabeth Clarke is reported about to marry Mr. [Robert O.] Pennywell.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.4cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, Jan. 24, 1827.

Is comfortably settled in Washington "at Mrs. Cotteringer's on F St." after travelling during three of the coldest days he remembers. Tells of the trip. Gen. [Stephen] Van Rensselaer, Mr. [Martin] Van Buren and son, and Mr. [Louis] McLane make up his mess. Was warmly greeted by Mr. [John] Randolph when he took his seat in the Senate. Mentions Mr. [Thomas] Clayton and Mr. . . . Rodney. Asks what Charles [George] has heard from West Point. Reminds the youth that his own entire three-day trip to Washington cost but \$17.06 and that he "lived all the way . . . like a gentleman." Refers to his small sons Nich[olas] and Eugene [Ridgely]. Alludes to the "steam boat stage" from Elkton, [Md.].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[U. S. SENATOR] HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 9, 1827.

Tells of the hearing before the [State] House of Representatives on [Aaron] Poulson's complaint against his conduct of a case, inspired, he believes, by Mr. [John] Wales to avoid blame for a bungled case. Was vindicated. A bill for direct election of Presidential electors probably favors [Andrew] Jackson, who has zealous support in New Castle County while few elsewhere are interested. "I am against the measure, be-

cause it is a step to Consolidation, but I care nothing about it, nor about Jackson or [John Quincy] Adams". Pays for his subscription to the *National Intelligencer* and volume VIII of *Theological Repertory*. The change is to be spent for "Books, Pencils, Razors, etc". Geo[rge] Read, Jr., is ill of cholera morbus. Mentions the case of "Clement, Blackstock and Van Slyke ag[ain]st the Ches[aapeake] & Del[aware] Canal Company," Aaron Justis, Mr. [Matthew] Kean, Mr. . . . Hamilton, [Joseph] Gales, [Jr.] and [William W.] Seaton, James C. Dunn, and the members of the Ridgely family. Writes before dawn because of the pressure of court business.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 11, 1827.

Is greatly concerned over Charles [George Ridgely]'s "thoughtless and imprudent conduct." Wishes him to start the study of law at once, guided by the Chancellor's [Nicholas Ridgely] suggestions. Has seen Mr. . . . Carr, Mrs. Carr and her sister Miss . . . Baker. Learns that [his former landlady] Mrs. Wadsworth died wretchedly in the poorhouse at Alexandria, [Virginia] but that her three children are respectably provided for. Finds Washington much improved in appearance since his last visit. Is homesick. Refers to his four sons and two daughters, and to the Secretary of War.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 13, 1827.

Fears illness may be the cause of his wife's tardiness in writing. The resignation of their son Charles [George Ridgely] from the Army has been accepted because his parents wished it, but the Secretary of War, Mr. [James] Barbour, regrets losing "an officer who had stood so high in all his classes in the military academy." He himself hopes the youth may now "throw off all his wild companions" and devote himself to study of the law. Charles has limitless opportunities if he can become more stable, for he already has ability, education, and the favorable opinion of "many of the first men of the nation." Points out that "the Law is the path to fame in . . . [a] free country." Mentions Mr. [Louis] McLane and Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JARED SPARKS, Baltimore, [Md.], Feb. 17, 1827.

If Mr. Ridgely was successful in procuring the promised copy of *Laws of Delaware* from the Legislature, he would appreciate having it sent to him at the *North American Review*, Boston, by Robert H. Small, Bookseller, Philadelphia. Considers the work "very important . . . in my historical pursuits." Appreciates the courtesies shown him during his brief visit to Dover.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

[MISS] ELIZABETH [RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 20, 1827.

Compliments [his eldest daughter] on her well-written letter. Mentions [his small sons] Nicholas and Eugene [Ridgely], Mr. [Louis] McLane, and Mr. and Mrs. [John] Pleasanton and family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from MARTIN W. BATES, Dover, Feb. 26, 1827.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to join him as counsel for Sarah Cowgill in her action to prevent altering the order in which her judgment and John Pleasanton's against property of Mary Fisher shall be executed. Though the case is simple and he feels both law and equity uphold his client, he fears the hostility of Chief Justice [James] Booth will prejudice any case in which he appears alone in the Court of Common Pleas.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 26.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 27, 1827.

Teases his daughter about her laziness in the morning, pointing out that he is writing by candlelight before breakfast. Is "glad that you and your sister have given up the Dover Balls. . . . They are not proper places for Ladies who have a just feeling of self respect & honest pride." Wishes her to read [Charles] Rollin's *History* attentively, being sure to understand as well as memorize. Mentions Miss . . . Baker, Mrs. . . . Carr, Miss . . . Carr and the members of his own family. Charges Ann to "take good care of [the dog] Rindo."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Mar. 26, 1827.

Is relieved that Elizabeth is at school for the news of Dover is "even lower than common." Is satisfied with her progress, but cautions her about spelling and about strict economy. Directs her to try her "taste and skill in the purchase of a handsome rocking chair." Has received "a good account" from Charles [George Ridgely] at New Castle. Suggests Henry Ridgely Wright as a name for her infant nephew. Refers to Mrs. [Sarah] Cowgill, Miss . . . Naudain and Miss . . . Denny.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from R[OBERT] H. SMALL, Philadelphia, April 5, 1827.

Will forward a certain box when it arrives.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o W. W. WRIGHT, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, April 7, 1827.

Has changed her mind about the chair. "Our gardens in town and country" are especially beautiful, the former attracting much attention. Speaks of her own delicate health and of her husband's absence on business.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, April 29, 1827.

Tells an anecdote about the difficulty of getting Ann [Ridgely] up in the morning. The vegetable garden is already bearing well. The boys have picked ripe cherries at "Linden". Hopes some day to experiment with raising olives but fears it is impossible. Mentions Mr. [James] Rogers, Judge [James] Booth and the Chancellor, their own family, the [John] Hillyards, and the [W. W.] Wrights, naming the latter's six children. Has no news of Dover because "I never talk slander."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 1, 1827.

Elizabeth's homesickness and dislike of boarding school distress her. Recalls her own happy experience there and begs her daughter to adjust herself. Speaks of Father's [Henry M. Ridgely] trip with Ann to bring Henry [Ridgely, Jr.] home

from Newark, [Delaware] and of his and brother Charles' [George Ridgely] absorption "in poloticks." Jackson men have won at "the little election." Hopes to visit Philadelphia next month.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Mrs. [D.] Grelaud's Boarding School, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 7, 1827.

"It is absolutely necessary for a lady to spell correctly." Tells about the younger children. Will consider having Elizabeth study French. Is sending her "waist ribbon and silk stockings." Mentions her teacher, Mrs. D. Grelaud.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 30, 1827.

Worries over Elizabeth's homesickness. Urges her to adjust herself to school life. Brother Charles [George Ridgely] has a severe case of rheumatism. His "good conduct makes home quite pleasant" and will make his father's expected absence [in Washington] easier to bear. "Your father, thank Heaven is in the land of the living . . . but so engaged in politics he is only a visitor at home. . . . I am tired of the name of [Andrew] Jackson and [John Quincy] Adams."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Oct. 8, 1827.

Fears lack of news from Philadelphia indicates Mr. Wright is ill. Cannot delay her trip to the city beyond next week, since [infant sister] Williamina [Ridgely] is frail and should not be "from home" later in the season. Brother Charles [George Ridgely] is still disabled with rheumatism. Would like Elizabeth [Ridgely] to remain in school until next autumn.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.8cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Oct. 8, 1827.

The illness of Mr. [W. W.] Wright and Williamina [Ridgely] has prevented her visit to Elizabeth. Begs her to control her discontent and use her time well. Mentions "Father's objections to a boarding School."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, Oct. 14, 1827.

Is distressed by Elizabeth's continued unhappiness. The family was awaiting her when she arrived home before daylight, via steamboat from Philadelphia. Aunt [Mary] Hillyard is ill. Bill Jakes, son of the Ridgely housekeeper at "Linden" farm, has died. Charles [George Ridgely] may soon discard his crutches. Urges her daughter to "be prudent . . . there is no beauty equal to female decorum, one false step and the female character suffers for life. . . . Dover, I fear, is as dissipated as ever."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Dover, Oct. 22, 1827.

Describes the fire which destroyed the Dover jail at midnight on Saturday, a few hours after Ann [Ridgely] had left on the ten o'clock stage for Philadelphia. The prisoners, as well as most of Mr. [Thomas] Fisher's property were saved. A prisoner has been indicted for setting the blaze. [Five-year-old] Eugene [Ridgely] wants a trumpet, a toy horse and cart whose price his father estimates at four cents, and a box with [picture or figures] of two swordsmen, priced at three cents. Mentions Nicholas [Ridgely] and [servant] Priscilla . . .

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, The Farmers Bank of Delaware, Dover, from ALLEN McLANE, Jr., Wilm[ington], Nov. 17, 1827.

Asks Mr. Ridgely as President of the Bank to transfer \$5,000 by Thursday's mail, and all the additional funds that can be spared in the near future, in order to meet "the pressure which the Bank of Delaware constantly subjects us to, owing to their receiving our paper immediately from the Phi[la]d[el]phia Banks." The debt to them has been paid, but the strain of honoring the notes of all [Farmers Bank] branches forces this "call upon the Mother Bank." Expects "a smooth sea" once the present difficulties are met. Hopes the new notes are ready, for the condition of their paper makes it hard to keep in circulation.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 19, 1827.

Takes her daughter severely to task for constant discontent, insisting that she remain at school and pointing out the need for a sound education. Mr. Ridgely will leave soon for Washington. Mentions Anna Maria Morris. The "poor criminal who burnt the jail is to be hung tomorrow." Had hoped he would be reprieved.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDG[ELY], Dover, from H. W. ROGERS, Baltimore, Md., Nov. 26, 1827.

Finds it so difficult to negotiate a draft in Baltimore for the \$485.00 placed to his credit in the Farmers Bank in Dover that he asks Mr. Ridgely to draw the sum and place it in "the Post office which is in Barnum's Tavern" as he passes through Baltimore on his way to Washington. Hopes he will ignore the request if it conflicts with other arrangements.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Washington], from MR. and MRS. [HENRY] CLAY, [Washington], December, 1827.

Extends a formal invitation for the evenings of December 26, January 16, "and every alternate Wednesday thereafter until the 20th of March," [1828].

N. U. 1 p. 12.4cm. x 19cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, at Mrs. [D.] Grelaud's, Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Dec. 2, 1827.

Is comfortably situated "on capitol hill", and pleased to hear Elizabeth is happier at school. Insists that she obtain Mrs. Grelaud's approval of her destination and companions before leaving school on any social occasion. She is to send him, for identification, any future anonymous letter she receives. Believes he knows the writer of a previous one.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

HON. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, from H. W. ROGERS, Baltimore, Md., Dec. 7, 1827.

Not having heard from Mr. Ridgely in regard to the cashing of his draft, he assumes that his letter reached Dover too late. Wishes, however, to be certain so that he may safely make other plans for transfer of the sum.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.8cm.

HON. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, from H. W. ROGERS, Baltimore, Md., Dec. 8, 1827.

Acknowledges the return of his check. Will write to Mr. [Cornelius P.] Comegys for a certified statement of his balance, "which I can negotiate."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 12, 1827.

Wishes Father [H. M. Ridgely] would move, for "the Society of Dover is so bad there are scarcely any I should feel willing for you to associate with." Gives his Washington address. Orders a collar, two handsome side combs, a silver thimble, and six yards of rug fringe. Sends a lamp for repair.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HON. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Washington], from JAMES RAY, near Newark, [Del.], Dec. 14, 1827.

A Delaware merchant asks Congressional intercession in his claim against the Spanish Crown for the seizure of his brig *James Lawrence* en route from South America. States the circumstances and outlines his efforts to secure justice through the regular channels. Alludes to his eldest son, recently lost at sea, and to his six younger children.

[A formal memorial, in H. M. Ridgely's writing, restates the complaint of the owner of the *James Lawrence*.]

L. S. 4 + 2 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.
32cm. x 19.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 130 S. Third St., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Dec. 25, 1827.

Wishes his eldest daughter a happy Christmas and reminds her that her happiness and prosperity in future seasons will depend much upon how good an education she secures now.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

[MISS] ANN [RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Dec. 25, 1827.

Sends Christmas greetings. Will be lonely away from his family. Tells of a fine bowl of egg nog prepared by their landlord and served at breakfast as a holiday treat. Hopes Ann will continue to write him excellent letters like her last, pay close attention to her history, and devote herself closely to all

her studies. Sends affectionate messages to Nicholas, Eugene and "little Will"[iamina Ridgely]. Wants the boys to learn and practice "speeches". Asks [Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely] to send him the political news.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

JAMES RAY, Esq., near Newark, Del., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Dec. 29, 1827.

Explains that the memorial in the case of the Brig *James Lawrence* has been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and then indicates future procedure that may be followed.

A. Cy. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, Farmers Bank, . . ., Dover, Jan. 4, 1828.

The cashier of the Farmers Bank transmits a formal resolution of the Directors, requesting [Mr. Ridgely] to visit Dover at once to sign enough of the notes from the new plates to "enable the different Departments to establish their circulating medium" from them, and adds a personal letter. He is gravely worried over the actual support of his family; and the other cashiers, tellers and even the "servants or runners" are in equally desperate straits because their salaries, already too low, have been reduced still further by the Directors. "There is not an officer now in the Institution whose Salary exceeds six hundred Dollars . . . the pitiful sum allowed to servants or runners . . . was reduced . . . to Twenty Dollars. . . . Something must be done for us speedily. We look to you . . . as our advocate and one of our best friends."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 32.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 4, 1828.

Offers New Year's greetings. "You can have no idea of this dull & Dissipated place. . . . I wish your Father would move from Dover to some place where you would all meet with better Society." Fears the [State] House of Representatives will have to adjourn, since a tie prevents the election of a Speaker and clerk. Thinks "they carry politicks too far. The business of the State is suspended". Is anxious for her lamp and maddrass dress.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington City, from C[HARLES] G. RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 7, 1828.

The Delaware Legislature has adjourned sine die because of its inability to elect a Speaker. Though the Jackson supporters offered to give or accept the clerkship and post of sergeant-at-arms in exchange for the office of Speaker, the Adams men refused a compromise. Caleb Layton's threat to a wavering Jackson man is said to have angered him into standing his ground and preventing an Adams victory. Names the members of the House. Is not certain that "an Electoral law" could have been passed even had the Legislature organized, since "the Senate had determined on the District system, the House by a general ticket." The *United States Gazette* is still being sent.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.3cm.

C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 13, 1828.

Writes that he cannot spend enough time in Dover to sign the new notes to be issued by the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware as requested by a resolution of January 2. Offers his resignation as president of the bank if the matter requires urgent attention; asks that the directors in the different counties be consulted.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Jan. 13, 1828.

Warns her daughter that when she leaves school she must spend much time in study, probably with her brother C[harles George Ridgely] who is "intelligent, and very correct in his conduct." Father [Henry M. Ridgely] is enjoying Washington. Mentions Dr. . . . Sykes, Williamina Goldsborough, the Owen family of Alabama, and Nicholas [Ridgely]. Encloses \$6.00 for a maddrass dress, adding in a footnote to inquire whether silk would be better.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 120 S. Third St., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 16, 1828.

Gives explicit directions for paying Mrs. Grelaud's bill by check on "Mr. [Stephen Girard] Gerrard's bank" and obtaining a receipt. D. Grelaud's receipted bill for \$88.38 for tuition, textbooks and incidentals, June 6-July 15, Sept. 11-Dec. 11, 1827 is enclosed.

A. L. S., 1 + 1 pp., 20cm. x 25cm. [Enclosure].

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] R[IDGELY], Dover, Jan. 20, 1828.

Urges Elizabeth to adjust herself to school routine, for she has only a short time left. Comments on the Maryland custom of having tutors in well-to-do families. Mentions Mr. . . . Robinson's ordination, various recent parties in Dover, and Uncle [William] Wright's continued illness. Is delighted with [Charles George Ridgely's] "complete reformation." He is active in the Temperance Society. Refers to Senator Ridgely's "delightful" mess.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware, Dover, Jan. 21, 1828.

Urges Mr. Ridgely not to resign as president of the Farmers Bank until the replies are received to the enclosed letter to its various branches. Thomas Clayton seconds the request and says he would have forestalled adoption of "that resolution" had illness not kept him from the Directors' meeting. Mr. . . . Manlove also hopes Mr. Ridgely will continue to serve.

A. L. S., 1 + 2 pp., 20.3 cm. x 24.6cm. [Enclosure].

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FARMERS BANK OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, [Wilmington, New Castle, and Georgetown, Del.], from C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, Cashier, Farmers Bank . . . , Dover, Jan. 18, 1828.

Notifies the Directors that Henry M. Ridgely cannot comply with their resolution demanding his presence in Dover. Points out that the desired number of new notes could not be signed in less than six weeks, that there is no obstacle to having new and old notes in simultaneous circulation, and that a supply of new bills has already been sent the New Castle County branches, which were in particular need of new currency. Asks, therefore, that the resolution be rescinded. Otherwise Mr. Ridgely will resign, a course that might injure the credit of the institution, in view of his seniority among its officers.

A. Cy S., 2 pp., 20.3cm. x 24.6cm. [Enclosed with entry above].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, Dover, Jan. 21, 1828.

Appreciates Mr. Ridgely's expression of sympathy [with the plight of the Bank's employees] and his promise of support "at a day not far distant." Supposes "the State tax, the Premium . . . paid to the Bank of Delaware for taking the notes of the

upper Branches out of circulation" and the expense of the new engravings have produced a situation they must "grin and bear" for the present. He himself is forty-eight years of age, much in debt, and has no savings. A Temperance Society has been established in Dover with [Charles George Ridgely] as one of the members. Thinks it would be profitable for some of the older men to join, also. Asks about a "blank form of a bond" and discusses "our Steam Boat concerns." Mr. [Thomas] Clayton assures Mr. Ridgely that there is no need for him to resign.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Washington], from MARK RICHARDS, . . . ELLMAKER, J. PATTON, JR., JONA[THAN] JENKINS and JOS. . . . SMITHERS, Philad[elphia], Jan. 25, 1828.

Itemizes the obligations of the Steamship Company which must be met before the first of March, when the line goes into operation for the season. It will be necessary for the Directors to make cash advances or extend their personal credit to tide over this emergency. Mr. Ridgely is asked to underwrite the \$2,000 required for copper for reinforcing the keels of "the two boats in the Chesapeake". Though the Company's past and prospective earnings make it a safe investment, its immediate needs must be met or it will "go to ruin to the disgrace of the Direction." Mentions Mr. . . . Clayton and all signers of the letter among those supporting the enterprise.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, New Castle, Del., Jan. 26, 1828.

Encloses a resolution of the Directors of the Farmers Bank at New Castle acquiescing in any arrangements convenient for Mr. Ridgely for signing the new notes. Explains that he drafted the original resolution in the belief that Mr. Ridgely would be in Dover early in January in any event, and that the formal request from the Bank directors might assist him in securing adequate leave of absence from Congress. The idea he might resign if he could not comply occurred to no one. Would appreciate "a peep behind the curtain" in regard to public affairs. Asks particularly about the "pamphlet in relation to [Henry] Clay" and what will be done for manufacturers.

A. L. S., 2 + 1 pp., 20.4cm. x 25.5cm. [1 enclosure].

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 27, 1828.

Senate business and bad weather have proved confining. Is not sure he can bring Eugene [Ridgely] a poll parrot. Refuses his son any cats, notoriously bad travelling companions, from Washington, but he may get some in Dover. Has a book for each of his boys. General and Mrs. [Samuel] Smith of Baltimore and their wards, Mr. and Mrs. [John] McKinley and Mr. [William R.] King of Alabama, Mr. [J. S.] Barbour of Virginia and Mr. [Thomas] Mitchell of South Carolina make up a mess almost as congenial as the one Mrs. Ridgely and Liz [Elizabeth Ridgely] shared in 1813-14. Ann must write by every mail, for "writing well is one of the first accomplishments of a Lady." Shows how a quilting party could supply subject for a letter. Remarks that Charles' [George Ridgely] letters are prompt, informative and well written. Sends an affectionate message to his wife.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware, [Dover], Jan. 30, 1828.

All the officers of the Bank have agreed to allow Mr. Ridgely to defer signing notes until adjournment. Mentions the Dover branch directors. Asks for news, since Dover is very dull. Comments flippantly on the delightful walks around the Capitol and their frequentors.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.5cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from [Miss] ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Phil[adelphia], Feb. 2, 1828.

Sends her father an anonymous letter recently received at Uncle [W. W.] Wright's. Suggests saving it for the handwriting; her mother has burned those previously received. Had well-written letters from Nicholas and Eugene [Ridgely], composed, she assumes, by their mother. Asks for an immediate reply to her own. "I hope no one will ever read this but you." Is delighted at the prospect of leaving school in six weeks.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.8cm. x 33.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 8, 1828.

Approves her action in regard to an anonymous letter, whose author he hopes to identify. Urges her always to be "wary [and] circumspect." Sends a newspaper containing a

letter from F. P. Moore "which will give you [and] your companions all the information you wish respecting the Presidential question."

A. L. S.

1 p.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 120 S. Third St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 11, 1828.

Elizabeth may return home in March, but warns her she must continue her studies and may do little visiting. "The Society of this place is such you can have but few associates." Approves Elizabeth's handling of the anonymous letter. Repays a loan from Uncle [W. W.] Wright.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

20cm. x 24.6cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from [MISS] ELIZABETH [RIDGELY], Phil[adelphia], Feb. 15, 1828.

Hopes her father can identify the writer of the anonymous letter. She has no idea who he is. Says all the letters have been "so insulting not like a man of honour would write." Looks forward to being at home, and to her father's return in May. Is "very tiard of boarding school" where "it is study eat and sleep all the time" and where Mrs. [D.] Grelaud demands an explanation of every moment spent out of her sight. Was severely reprimanded for permitting her aunt to ask that she be allowed to attend "the Miss Rodneys' party". Hears much about the gaiety of Philadelphia, but sees none of it. Vincent Bradford often calls at Uncle [W. W.] Wright's on Saturday evening. Mentions her cousins Elizabeth and Helen [Davis]. Hopes [Andrew] Jackson will be elected, since it is of such concern to her father.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o Mrs. [D.] Grelaud, Philadelphia, from S. [MRS. H. M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 24, 1828.

Has regretfully withdrawn Elizabeth from school because her discontent prevented her from justifying "the expense you have cost your father." Expects Father home about June. Mentions the other Ridgely children, the Wright family, and a recent party in Dover. Speaks of herself as "your careworn Mother."

A. L. S.

2 pp.

20cm. x 24.5cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from [HENRY M. RIDGELY], Washington, Feb. 24, 1828.

Letters from home provide his chief pleasure here. Worries about bills Charles [George Ridgely] has contracted but urges his wife to "still exert yourself to reclaim him." Hopes home may be made pleasant for the children, especially in the evening. Discusses an order for cauliflower, lima bean, parsnip and lavender seed; pearl earrings for Ann [Ridgely]; and planting clover. Comments on Nichols' and Eugene's [Ridgely] progress at school and Ann's in French.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o W. W. Wright, Esq., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, April 7, 1828.

Encloses seventy dollars for tuition and for incidental needs. Asks Elizabeth [Ridgely] to be economical, since cash is difficult to obtain. Encloses Mrs. D. Grelaud's bill.

A. L. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 25cm. [Enclosure].

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from JAMES COUPER, Farmers Bank, New Castle, Del., April 9, 1828.

Sends the "draft of Messrs. [Joseph] Gales, [Jr.] & [William W.] Seaton on the Clerk of the House of Representatives". Wishes it discounted at the Bank of the United States, Washington, and the proceeds deposited to Mr. Ridgely's order if convenient.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, April 10, 1828.

Cannot understand how his wife could have doubted that her letters are his chief source of pleasure while he is away from home. Wishes his circumstances permitting bringing her to Washington, both for the pleasure of being together and because of the pride he feels in her, when he sees her "in the best company." Sent \$70.00 to Elizabeth [Ridgely in Philadelphia]. Hopes Charles [George Ridgely] conducts himself "more correctly." Refers to "little Will[iamina Ridgely]", Ann and his younger sons. Discusses the purchase of Mrs. . . . Seth's Negro woman if he can obtain "a good title as a slave for life."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, April 13, 1828.

Is so disturbed by the reports of his eldest son's "irregularities" that he considers resigning his Senate seat. Insists that Charles [Ridgely] keep his promise to reform, or leave his house. By remaining in his own room, at his studies, he could break the ties with "those ruinous companions . . . quietly, effectively, and without offense to anybody." Authorizes his wife to take any steps necessary to preserve the discipline of the household but hopes her efforts may yet reclaim the son who once showed such promise. Refers to their younger children. Sends Ann [Ridgely] a book on silkworm culture to help her in the care of the eggs sent by Dr. . . . Brinkloe.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, April 13, 1828.

Is pleased that she has progressed from Greek history to Roman. Points out the need for constant reading and study at her present age. Sends a book on silkworm culture, the gift of one of his messmates, to help in "rearing up the silkworms from the eggs you now have." The worms can be fed on lettuce if mulberry leaves are unobtainable. Begs Ann to "support, comfort and assist" her mother.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. H. M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], April 18, [1828].

Her father will come for her in a few days. She is to get "one or two gingham dresses" for use "in this dirty place."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, May 6, 1828.

Letters are arriving very irregularly. The Senate will adjourn when the tariff measure is disposed of. Alludes to the prospective purchase of [slave] Serena, to the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely], and Charles [George Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. R[IDGELY], Washington, May 13, 1828.

Is eager for adjournment. Wishes she could be with him to enjoy his walks "round the beautiful and magnificent terrace of the capitol" or over the hills overlooking the Potomac.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Washington, from JAMES COUPER, Cashier, Farmers Bank, New Castle, [Del.], May 17, 1828.

Thanks him for collecting the draft of Messrs. [Joseph] Gales, [Jr.] and [William W.] Seaton for the Bank.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from [HENRY M. RIDGELY], Washington, May 25, 1828.

Will come for her next week. Leaves Washington by steamboat for Norfolk tomorrow. Sends money for payment of her bills, and urges frugality. "Many a fine girl has lost a good husband by being extravagant."

A. L. [S. inferred] 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senate, Delaware, from JAMES McCALL, New York, [N. Y.], June 3, 1828.

A printed form letter asks wide distribution of the enclosed pamphlet, *Reasons Why the Present System of Auctions Ought to be Abolished*, and solicits support for corrective legislation. The pamphlet charges that the practice of selling imported and manufactured goods at auction permits one state to tax another's commerce, places unwarranted financial power in a few hands, and has already virtually destroyed the responsible section of the importing business. The system, moreover, threatens domestic trade and manufacture by artificially multiplying business risks and by encouraging smuggling, financial irresponsibility, shoddy imitation of standard goods, and innumerable other fraudulent practices.

L. U., 1 + 16 pp., 20.5cm. x 24.8cm. [Enclosure].

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from A. DAVIS, "New Garden", Cecilton, [Md.], Aug. 4, 1828.

Thanks her recent hostess for a pleasant visit. Has been ill, as have most of her friends. Is gravely concerned over the health of her sister Sally [Davis] who refuses to seek a healthier climate. Tells of having "her head dressed" in the garden with "snowberry, grapeflower, kiss-me-at-the-garden-gate, hemlock, cabbage-leaf, carrot seed, box wood, periwinkle, honeysuckle, hollyhock, cyress vine" and other flowers, before making her appearance in the parlour, much to the amusement of the company.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MRS. S[ALLY] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, ["Eden Hill", near Dover], Aug. 13, 1828.

Sends a note by [servant] Owen to ask Sally to drive back in his gig to sit with his wife, who is ill and depressed. Borrows "a few Irish Potatoes."

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.8cm. x 20.3cm.

HON. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[OHN] H[ENRY] EATON, Washington City, Nov. 30, 1828.

Had a rapid, fatiguing trip [from Tennessee]. Hopes Mr. Ridgely comes soon, for he believes many confirmations may be crowded through the Senate before the Administration changes. Fears the election results in Delaware may cause his friend, as a Jackson man, to lose his Senate seat. Considers him invaluable. If all doubtful seats are lost, the President-elect will retain a Senate majority of three. Left him [Andrew Jackson] well.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HON. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[OHN] S[TRADE] BARBOUR, Washington City, Dec. 3, 1828.

Is sympathetic about "the calamity that detains you." His room at . . . Warren's is reserved. Mr. [John Quincy] Adams, planning to stay in Washington, has taken [David] Porter's house. Mentions Gene Smith, Mrs. . . . Smith, Miss . . . Spear and her niece, Mr. Philip Barbour, Mr. [William R.] King and Mr. . . . Henby.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS. HENRY] M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from E[LIZABETH, MRS. W. W.] W[RIGHT, née McKEE, Philadelphia, c. Jan. 1829].

Enjoyed visits from "Aunt Read, . . . the last remaining friend of our dear Mother," Rebecca Connel, "Cousin E. Denn" and others. Refers to "the Salem people", Mr. . . . Field, and to Miss . . . Monroe and Miss . . . Rodney from Wilmington. Hopes Mrs. Ridgely will go to Washington [for the Inauguration]. Believes the trip would be "a life-time advantage" to their daughters. Plans to send her daughter Helen [Davis] to Mrs. Porter's school in Alexandria, [Virginia], since she is "too much grown to walk through our streets with her school-books and to[o] young to take from school." Suggests that Ann [Ridgely] be sent. Tuition and board total \$150.00 yearly. Discusses hats for Ann, and for Mary [Hillyard], and Mrs. Ridgely's "sattin" cape. Recommends "black velvet with ostrich plumes" for Elizabeth [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Washington, Jan. 23, 1829.

Gives his daughter further advice on letter-writing. Tells of a huge party, to which eight hundred guests were invited, following the marriage of Postmaster-general [John] McLean's daughter. Dislikes such affairs, mere "squeezes" where a lady "can't move . . . unless she has the arm and assistance of a gentleman to drag her along." Mentions Helen Davis, at school in Alexandria, [Virginia], whose incoming and outgoing mail is "inspected by Mrs. Porter." Sends greetings to each of his children.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 25, 1829.

Believes he will soon recover from his illness when he can be outdoors, but is now "very feeble". Hears Mr. [Willard] Hall has "furnished [the Legislature] with a Multiplicity of Bills", that there is discussion of the site to be ceded for a lighthouse, the establishment of [public] schools, an application from Pennsylvanians to incorporate a coal company in Wilmington, and "the Renovation of the Wilmington and Brandywine Bank." Asks the support of his brother and Mr. [Louis] McLane in securing a Federal clerkship for Joseph L. Harper who is likely to lose his post with the Orphans' Court and Court of Chancery. "No mercy will be shown him if he comes within their [his political opponents'] grasp." Encloses \$2.00 for the *National Calendar* for 1829, and a small almanac; also inquires about an advertised map of Washington. His [own] wife complains of rheumatism in her ankles. Suspects it is only her great weight that is troubling her.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.7cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, City of Washington, from W[ILLIAM] H[ILL] WELLS, Dover, Jan. 25, 1829.

Inquires about the Scuppernong grape, developed in North Carolina and said to be a phenomenal producer. Suggests that Mr. Ridgely procure plants for himself and for Mr. Wells. Its introduction would "render our State a great Benefit."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.6cm. x 25.6cm.

[MISS] ELIZABETH [RIDGELY, Philadelphia], from H[ENRY M.] RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 7, 1829.

Will join his wife, Elizabeth and Elizabeth [Davis] in Baltimore. Describes the rooms rented for them. Mentions friends at his Washington boarding place and other guests expected. [Andrew] Jackson is "expected daily." Will take some of Mrs. Porter's girls to the Capitol.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. H. M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 9, 1829.

Ann [Ridgely] accepted her father's refusal to add her to the Washington party so bravely Mrs. Ridgely wants a green silk dress and braid sent down for her promptly as a consolation. Discusses their reservations. Dreads the trip. The Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] says he would not let her take it "for five hundred dollars." Some who will not arrive for several weeks are already paying board in Washington. "There will be a great crowd, and I fear but little comfort." Thinks two party dresses will be enough for Elizabeth.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Senator of the United States, Washington, from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 17, 1829.

Ann, Nicholas, Eugene and Williamina [Ridgely] are well, and cause him and his wife no trouble. The General Assembly has adjourned "after passing an immense Number of Laws." Mr. [Willard] Hall is reported to have completed his work except for superintending "an Edition of all the existing Laws of the State." Has heard that Mr. [Willard] Hall drew "a bill . . . for that purpose, prescribing the Kind of Paper, etc.", and that it was passed. Plans to go to New Castle in a few days. Hopes Elizabeth [Ridgely] and her mother did not take cold "by travelling [to Washington] at Night, as we suppose they did." Asks for a few seeds of Sea Island cotton.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Washington, Feb. 17, 1829.

Had a tiring journey to Washington despite stops at Smyrna, Wilmington and Baltimore. Is uneasy about leaving the children and extremely grateful to Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas] Ridgely for caring for them. Assures Ann that she has missed nothing by remaining home, for "it is all form and ceremony here." Is disappointed that Ann's dress has not arrived.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 22, 1829.

His wife has had a sudden "attack of the gravel." Though Dr. . . . Adams thinks it mild, the Ridgely boys have been sent to Mrs. . . . Riley but remain under his supervision. Ann [Ridgely], with [slave] Serena, is caring for little Will[iamina Ridge-

ly] at [Eden Hill] farm. Goes to New Castle soon. Mrs. [Catherine] Bishop died on Friday of "an Attack in the head" after a quarrel with "Mr. . . . Cook about the rent." A daughter of Mrs. . . . Jackson of Camden was mortally ill the same day. Asks about the cotton seed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.8cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from KENDAL BATSON, Cape Henlopen, [Del.], Feb. 23, 1829.

Because he remained neutral in the recent campaign between [President John Q.] Adams and [President-elect Andrew] Jackson certain persons are seeking his removal as lighthouse keeper, though no charge of incompetence has been made against him. Though he does not believe "Gen[era]l Jackson and his cabinet can ever descend so low as to turn an old man" out of an unimportant position upon which he and his family depend for a livelihood, he thinks it wise to solicit the support of his friends. Has also written to L[ouis] McLane.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senator, Washington, from THO[MA]S FISHER, Dover, Feb. 23, 1829.

Wishes Mr. Ridgely to take a payment for him to "Gen. D. Green, Editor of the *Telegraph*." Since applications are being made for the post of lighthouse keeper and deputy collector at Cape Henlopen, he asks the Senator to recommend him if he thinks him a suitable candidate.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

[HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington], from MARTIN W. BATES, Dover, Feb. 24, 1829.

Comments, in reply to Mr. Ridgely's inquiry, that he thinks the makeup of Jackson's cabinet will made little difference in Delaware politics, that he considers Mr. [Samuel D.] Ingham a good choice, and that he knows little about Major [John H.] Eaton or Mr. [John] Branch. Despite his high personal esteem for Martin Van Buren, he would deplore his selection as Secretary of State. Having accepted nomination as Governor of New York, Van Buren owes a duty to its electorate, to his party and to the country at large to serve, unless one denies that public office involves any moral responsibility. The appointment would likewise give plausibility to the charges of *The Horn Book* "and other sources of filth" that Van Buren had sold Jackson his support on the promise of the top cabinet post. It would be a major blunder to give the opposition the same ammunition that was used so effectively against Adams after his appointment of [Henry] Clay. Thinks the Jackson men will not be a minority

in Delaware much longer. Asks if a [Federal] clerkship cannot be found for J. S. Harper, a thoroughly competent man likely to lose his State appointment. Hears [John M.] Clayton has been summoned to Washington by those who expect that appointments from the Senate to Jackson's cabinet will create an Adams majority in that body, giving the minority party a considerable control over the new Administration.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

[MRS.] HENRY M. RIDGELY, Washington, from NANCY [MISS ANN RIDGELY], Dover, Feb. 27, [1829].

"Willie" [Williamina Ridgely] is "the sweetest thing I most ever saw". Tells about life at Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas] Ridgely's. Wants a strand of her mother's hair in the ring promised her; also sends a piece of Uncle [Chancellor Nicholas] Ridgely's. Supposes father [H. M. Ridgely] will attend Mr. [Henry] Clay's sale of furniture. Mentions Helen [Davis].

A. L. S.

1 p.

20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, U. S. Senator, Washington, from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 27, 1829.

Because of his wife's illness and the bad travelling conditions, he has had the Court of Chancery in New Castle County adjourned until April. Explains the court schedule for the three counties and asks his brother to notify Mr. [Kensley] Johns, [Jr.] and Mr. [Louis] McLane. The Ridgely children are well; "Ann conducts herself with great Propriety and stands in no need of a Philadelphia Education, nor of a Finishing at Washington".

A. L. S.

1 p.

20cm. x 25.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Wash[ingto]n City, Mar. 2, 1829.

Was shocked by Mrs. [Catherine] Bishop's sudden death. Has met General [President-elect Andrew] Jackson and his [late] wife's nieces, Mrs. Donalson and Miss Easton. Has refused all invitations but one to parties, which are crowded, noisy and tiring; "every one almost stands up in the middle of the floor." Despite the many distinguished guests, the gatherings are not very interesting. Has bought Ann "a beautiful rose-colored Grenadeen" and promises "handsome" presents to all the children and to [slave] Serena. Has been embarrassed because their mess of sixteen members, among them Jerome Buonaparte and "young Barbour of Virginia", is too large to permit her to entertain "poor Helen" [Davis]. Mentions Mr. [Daniel] Turner and his bride, the former Miss . . . Key of Georgetown, "the girls" [Elizabeth Ridgely and Elizabeth Davis], and the family at home.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, [New Castle, Del.], April 17, 1829.

Asks, in confidence, if Mr. Ridgely would refuse the position of Collector of the Port of Wilmington if it were tendered him. Though not as good an appointment as he has a right to expect, it is the most reputable Federal post in the State of Delaware. Its present perquisites and fees produce about \$1200.00 yearly, which would increase under an incumbent trusted in Philadelphia; it would allow him leisure to manage his land, give his family the advantages of a home in New Castle County, and "not preclude your transfer to a station that might be more acceptable".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 16cm. x 20cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover], from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] W[RIGHT, Philadelphia, April 20, 1829].

Has paid certain bills and will send the mulberry trees at the first opportunity. Is glad she has written affectionately to Charles [George Ridgely] of whom the Wright family is very fond. Mentions a position being sought for him. Mentions Mr. [Louis] McLane's appointment as Minister to England.

A. N. S., 1 p., 20cm. x 25 cm. [On letter to Miss Elizabeth Ridgely from Charles George Ridgely, April 20, 1829].

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from N. G. WILLIAMSON, Wil[mingto]n, May 21, 1829.

Col. [Allen] McLane is believed dying. "His successor is of course the general topic." Mr. Ridgely's name is among those mentioned. Should he wish the appointment, Mr. . . . Gordon willingly withdraws his application, but otherwise would appreciate letters to the President and the proper members of the cabinet. Thinks Mr. Gordon would "give general satisfaction. . . . To myself this mark of regard for a friend who was amongst the first in the cause . . . will be highly gratifying." Col. Peter B. Delany asks a letter in his favor to Mr. [Samuel D.] Ingham "for the appointment of Inspector at New Castle in the event of Capt. . . . Lawyer's removal."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.6cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, June 22, 1829.

Writes from aboard the steamboat as he returns from a visit to Salem, [New Jersey]. Has not sought an engagement with Miss [Charlotte] Haley, though he deeply desires it, because his prospects are even less promising now than before.

Still has confidence in his own ability. Is glad his mother had once prevented his making a disastrous marriage and promises to confide in her if he plans to marry. Hopes, "thru' the approving aid of Providence", he has effected a complete reformation of his intemperate habits. Never before remained sober aboard a steamship.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.6cm. x 33.5cm.

HON. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from V. L. WILLIAMSON, Wilmington, Sept. 9, [c. 1829].

Wishes a certain letter hurried, for Mr. [John M.] Clayton has started for Washington and its prompt arrival is important.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES ROGERS, Delaware Hotel, [n.p.], Feb. 11, [c. 1830].

Asks to have an originally enclosed letter delivered to the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] in Dover or at Georgetown, [Delaware]. Lives at the hotel with . . . Broom.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, New Castle, Del., Feb. 28, 1830.

Offers seventy shares of Far[mers] Bank stock, now belonging to him and his brother-in-law, Mr. . . . Stokes, to the executors of Dr. [Ezekiel] Needham at prices from \$40.00 to \$43.00 per share. Considers \$45.00 the correct price, but will not haggle.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Pres[iden]t of Farmers Bank, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, New Castle, Del., Mar 11, 1830.

Sends a document to which the corporate seal [of the Farmers Bank] is to be affixed. Asks its return to Mr. [John] Torbert or Mr. [John] Wales. Mr. . . . Stokes is willing to sell the bank shares on the terms Mr. Ridgely offers. He himself will take \$39.00 per share for his own. Hopes the Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] will adjourn court on Saturday.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.7cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, [New Castle, Del.], Mar. 16, 1830.

The Bank stock will be transferred to the Messrs. [John] Cowgill, [Jr. and Sr.], as Mr. Ridgely directs. "The *Monangahela* arrived last night in 30 days from Liverpool but brings no news of importance." Appreciates Mr. Ridgely's recent help.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, New Castle, Del., Mar. 22, 1830.

Sends a certificate for thirty shares of stock. The Superior Court has a "lengthy & arduous list of Trials" before it, which will require two or three days. "A Laborious business this same court is to their Honors."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, New Castle, Del., Mar. 27, 1830.

Acknowledges a check for \$2975.00 in payment for seventy shares of Farmers Bank stock. Sent the entire sum to Mr. . . . Stokes in Philadelphia to facilitate payment. Repeats his thanks for Mr. Ridgely's services.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 25.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from T[HOMAS] STOCKTON, New Castle, Del., July 6, 1830.

Wishes Mr. Ridgely to send all the papers belonging to the Court of Chancery of this County by the first opportunity, particularly in the cases of Massey vs Farmers Bank of Del. and others, Busti and Vander Kamp vs Budd and others, and E. L. Pennington vs William Polk and others.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MARIA ROGERS, New Castle, Del., Aug. 1, 1830.

Is disappointed that Elizabeth [Ridgely] did not pay her promised visit and that Mr. [H. M.] Ridgely and Ann [Ridgely] did not stop when they went through New Castle. Invites Elizabeth to come in "about a fortnight", when "Dr. . . . Rogers and his wife, and her daughter Miss Kerr" will also be visiting.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

[MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY] and MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH [RIDGELY], New Castle, Del., Aug. 23, [c. 1830].

Writes to her mother and sister, though it is Sunday, believing there is "no more harm in [it] than . . . in sleeping." After taking communion at the Episcopal Church, she feels more an Episcopalian than a Methodist. Admires Mr. [Stephen Wilson] Prestman, the rector. Attended a delightful and unusual party aboard a ship about to sail for Russia. She did not dance, but spent the evening walking "with very agreeable gentlemen." Mentions Lucinda Hall, Mr. and Mrs. [James] Rogers, Judge . . . Rodgers of Lancaster, "Cousin Elizabeth" [Davis], her brothers Charles [George], Nicholas and Eugene [Ridgely], Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas] Ridgely, Aunt Mary [Hillyard], Anna Maria, Emily [and] Eliza [Morris]. Her own health "has never been better"; hopes her mother has recovered. Will be ready to return when her two-weeks' visit is over, but speaks glowingly of the hospitality she has met in New Castle.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o James Rogers, New Castle, Del., from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 27, 1830.

Plans for Elizabeth's return home. Speaks of her brother John's [Banning] visit, "another son" in his family, and his "satisfactory" conduct. Charles [George Ridgely] is studying hard; hopes "he will yet become a steady man." Mentions the Rogers family, Lucinda Hall, Mr. [Judge Willard] Hall, Eliza Hillyard, Mrs. . . . Wales, Kitty Reese, Mrs. . . . Read, Mrs. . . . Maxwell, Aunt Mary Hillyard, Eliza Naudain, Aunt . . . Alford and E[lizabeth] Davis.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, New Castle, [Del.], Oct. 6, 1830.

Introduces Mr. William Medell, stating his qualifications and asking letters for him to some of Mr. Ridgely's Western acquaintances.

[Mr. Ridgely encloses a draught of the requested letter, noting that copies were given the young lawyer addressed to Messrs. . . . Ruggles of Ohio, [E. K.] Kane of Illinois and [David] Barton of Missouri].

A. L. S., 1 p. + 2, 20.4cm. x 25.6cm. [1 enclosure].
15.6cm. x 8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN CUMMINS, Smyrna, [Del.], Mar. 8, 1831.

Discusses the will of George Hazle, just deceased, and the administration of his estate to avoid sale of the land. Mentions a son [William] A. Hazle, James Spear and Hazle heirs unnamed. Is ill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o W. W. Wright, Walnut St., Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, April 27, 1831.

Is very uneasy about Elizabeth's health. Hopes "Aunt Mary's [Hillyard] little boy" is improving. Wants Edward's [Ridgely] white frock sent in time for his christening. Needs "a set of lines" and a pair of decanter stoppers. "Are plain gingham worn by grown persons?"

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o W. W. Wright, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 14, 1831.

"Dover is very gay." Tells of numerous parties recent or planned. The entire family, Ann [Ridgely] especially, enjoy Helen's [Davis] visit. Attended a [P. E. Church] Convention in Dover Sunday. Charles [George Ridgely] is directing the [Smyrna] Academy at \$500.00 yearly, lives with [Rev. Robert] Piggott's family, and is said to be a candidate for ordination. Mentions Edward [Ridgely].

Ann [Ridgely] asks her sister to "hurry my dress."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o W. W. Wright, Walnut St., Cor. of Raspberry Alley, Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. and S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, June 22, 1831.

Mrs. Ridgely completes a letter started by her husband, enclosing \$20.00. Ann [Ridgely] and Helen [Davis] are happily busy. [Mr. and Mrs. Daniel] Lowber and Miss . . . Man are visiting. Mr. [James] Rogers has invited Elizabeth to New Castle.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from S[ALLY, MRS. HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, [post June 22, 1831].

Discusses Elizabeth's return, a dress to be made, a "little hat for Edward [Ridgely]" who is "pretty enough" to have one, and the family's affection for Helen [Davis] who starts home tomorrow. Mentions [Mr. and Mrs. Daniel] Lowber, Miss . . . Man, Anna Maria Seth, and . . . Fox.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from E. D. CULLEN, Geo[rge] Town, Del., Feb. 9, 1832.

Asks Mr. Ridgely to decide a point of professional ethics. He had engaged to represent Mrs. [Nellie] Powell and her husband against her brothers, the Messrs. . . . Wright, not realizing that matters on which he had previously advised the Wrights and documents he had seen as their counsel were involved. He was then claimed as attorney by both sides. Despite his effort to withdraw from the case, the litigants later agreed, without his consent, to permit him to serve Mr. Wright if Mr. Ridgely judged it proper.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 16cm. x 20.3cm.

[E. D. CULLEN, Georgetown, Del.], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 13, 1832.

"Your determination to serve neither of the parties is the correct and proper one."

A. Cy. S. 1 p., 16cm. x 20.3cm. [On same sheet as entry above].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ERRIT] CANBY, Philad[elphi]a, Feb. 24, 1832.

Solicits Mr. Ridgely's aid in settling an enclosed account against Lowder Layton, amicably if possible. Mentions [William] Warner "now of Wilmington".

[William Warner adds a note of further explanation. Thinks the adjustment now offered will secure payment on demand.]

A. L. S., 2 pp. + 1, 19.8cm. x 24.7cm. [1 enclosure].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from MERRIT CANBY, Philad[elphi]a, April 21, 1832.

Regrets that he has had to be reminded of the fee for the Layton case. Encloses a check for \$10.00. Was called away just after the receipt of the previous letter "by having a ship ashore on the coast of New Jersey."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ARY] R. [MRS. WILLIAM] M[ORRIS, Dover, ante July, 1832].

Hopes it is not true that Sally plans "to go to class meeting this Even[ing]. I really begin to think that Dover has not one single real Episcopalian in it but myself." Alludes critically to "their [the Methodists'] Sunday school invitation". Hopes "we . . . shall attend our own [school] and no other". Will "feel for [Rev.] Mr. [Robert] P[iggott] if you do go."

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 25.3cm.

MRS. SALLY [HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from M[ARY] R. [MRS. WILLIAM] M[ORRIS, Dover, ante July, 1832].

Had been "quite distressed about the [Sunday] school, but if you will serve as superintendent I shall feel quite revived in spirit about it." Agrees Sally should "attend this evening" and will try to do so herself.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 21cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [REV.] ROBERT PIGGOT, Smyrna, Del., July 11, 1832.

Plans, "owing to arrangements that I have made in Philad[elphi]a," to leave his present charge "without any unnecessary delay." If he recovers in time from an "attack of bilious" he plans to preach his final sermon in Dover next Sunday, and wishes to claim Mr. Ridgely's hospitality on that occasion, since it was to his house he came "when as a stranger I appeared among you." Asks him to inform the trustees of Christ Church. Holds them responsible for his salary only until July 1, but its prompt payment would relieve him "from very embarrassing difficulties."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES BOOTH, New Castle, Del., July 17, 1832.

Sends a box of books by Friday's stage, with Elijah Weaver's receipted bill. Could not obtain the titles his friend wanted "in any of the cheap stores" and knew Mr. Weaver could get them at the regular law-book stores on better terms than he could. Explains that he did not obtain [James] Kent's *Commentaries [on American Law]* because a second edition of the last three volumes will soon appear. Peters' *Reports in the Sup.[reme] Court of the U. S.*, volumes III-IV are \$4.50

each. Asks what he shall do with the \$19.00 remaining in his hands. Titles sent are: Chitty's *Pleadings*, Saunders' *Pleadings*, Stephens' *Pleadings*, Roper on *Property*, Selwyn's *Nisi Prius*, Starke's *Evidence*, Chitty's *Digest*, and *American Digest*.

A. L. S. 1 + 1 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from P. F. CAUSEY, Milford, Del., July 18, 1832.

States that he has no funds on hand to meet demands on the estate of B. Needham, deceased, but can honor all accounts soon.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES BOOTH, [New Castle, Del.], July 20, 1832.

Mr. Ridgely's books must wait for Monday's stage since the driver can handle no more baggage "today" (Friday).

A. N. S. 1 p. 15.7cm. x 19.5cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, [Dover], from JAMES BOOTH, New Castle, [Del.], Oct. 19, 1832.

Is sending Kent's *Commentaries* . . ., four volumes, 2nd edition, price thirteen dollars. Believes it was wise to await this edition.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 12cm.

MRS. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Balt[imore], Md., Feb. 19, 1833.

Expresses his sorrow at the death of his sister Elizabeth [Ridgely]. Tells of receiving the letter bringing the news, reminisces about their parting, and speaks of the affection between them. Would like to have, as a keepsake, the miniature of his grandmother which his mother had given Elizabeth or one of the bedquilts she made during her illness. Is homesick. Promises, if his father and aunt [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely] permit him to spend his two-weeks' Easter vacation at home, to be even more conscientious in his studies. Alludes to the burning of [Peales'] Museum in Baltimore.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.9cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from N. CLARK, [Dover], Feb. 21, 1833.

Asks Mr. Ridgely's advice about renewing an application to Governor [Caleb P.] Bennett for the post of Register [of Wills for Kent County], which he had withdrawn in deference to [Thomas S.] Hillyard's rumored candidacy. Mentions Mr. . . . Rogers.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm. x 32cm.

THOMAS BRADFORD, JR., Esq., Philadelphia, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Feb. 22, 1833.

Asks for the return of a biographical sketch of the late Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely he prepared in 1831 for the *American Encyclopedia*.

A. Df. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 15cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from THOMAS BRADFORD, JR. and CAREY, LEA & CO., Phila[delphia], Feb. 26, 1833.

Mr. Bradford forwards a note from Carey, Lea & Co. He does not take the [*American Encyclopedia*] or would have seen to the insertion of biographical notes concerning the late Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely]. Adds that he was shocked to read of the death of Mr. Ridgely's "beloved daughter" [Elizabeth]. Recalls his correspondent's kindness when a child of his own died in Dover. Refers to the deaths of two other children, losses which have finally led him to "get ready to be united to [them] when I die."

Carey, Lea & Co[mpany] offer an apology for omitting the sketch, and ask permission to copy it before returning the manuscript, in the hope that they may soon be able to use it.

[An appended note indicates that Mr. Ridgely gave the requested permission.]

A. L. S., 2pp. + 1, 20cm. x 25cm. [Enclosure].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JAMES ROGERS, New Castle, Del., Mar. 13, 1833.

Sends an enclosure [H. M. Ridgely's commission as Register of Wills] which it gives him particular pleasure to transmit. "... if no other good comes of the present [Governor Caleb P. Bennett's] administration than this, it will redeem all its errors."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 32cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOHN C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., Sept. 6, 1833.

Enoch Cloud, the referee, has awarded Mr. Ridgely \$144.00 in his dispute with Mr. [Joshua] Richardson. Discusses his fee in a Farmers Bank case against George Beaston. Explains that the expected appeal will entail an eighty-mile trip to Easton, [Maryland] with expenses approximating \$50.00.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

JOHN C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 16, 1833.

The Farmers Bank directors have accepted Mr. Groome's terms for handling their business. He may deduct his fee from the payment in the [Joshua] Richardson case.

A. Cy. S., 1 p., 19.6cm. x 24.6cm. [On same sheet as entry above].

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ALEX[ANDER] PORTER, Wilmington, Oct. 23, 1833.

Wants W[illia]m B. Waples "summoned on my trial." Asks to be informed of all developments.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS [ANN] RIDGELY, c/o J. R. Black, New Castle, Del., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Philadelphia, July 14, 1834.

Explains his plans for returning to Dover, joining Ann and Henry [Ridgely] on the way. Is waiting for the inscription for Elizabeth's [Ridgely] gravestone to be completed.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [GENERAL SAMUEL SMITH], Baltimore, [Md.], Aug. . . ., 1834.

Opposes the centralization of power under the executive taking place under [President] Jackson, and his views on the independence of the Treasury in particular. Jackson's doctrine, he thinks, leads to a Presidency controlled only by the threat of impeachment. Fears little from "the incumbent", but considers the precedent dangerous if it should be given public support at the polls, "But in the present temper of the people a truly honest man of independent principles cannot, I fear, be elected." The opposition party, certainly, can have no hope of success. Consequently he believes they would support a moderate Jackson man with conservative views on the Constitution. "Louis McLane of Delaware is the best man for the President." Asks Mr. Ridgely to sound out his acquaintances cautiously if he approves, and if not to destroy the letter and let the matter drop. Adds a note that should [Martin] Van Buren lose the election in New York his support in other States would evaporate, "and in that case I know of no Jackson man who could interfere with McLane."

A. L. U., 5 pp. [+ 2], 19.8cm. x 25.3cm. [Enclosure].

GENERAL SAMUEL SMITH, Baltimore, [Md.], from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 12, 1834.

Fully agrees with General Smith's analysis of the trend of public affairs, and for some time has been warning of "the dangerous tendency to the destruction of the Constitution and the liberties of our country." The course the General suggests seems "the only one likely to be successful," and he will further it with all the influence at his command. He feels that [Louis] McLane would be a stronger candidate if he were first proposed by some moderate Administration man from a large state and then assured of Delaware's support than if the nomination were to come from Delaware. Believes General Smith is the man most able to have the nomination correctly managed. The [Jackson] Administration press in the State appears ready to launch an attack on McLane, showing that "they are suspicious and fearful of him." Has had two conversations with [John M.] Clayton, who is favorably disposed to the McLane candidacy.

A. L. S., 2 pp., 20cm. x 25.3cm. [Enclosed with entry above].

MRS. [HENRY M.] SARAH RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] M. DAVY, Philadelphia, Oct. 6, 1834.

Discusses purchase of an unexpectedly expensive rug for the Ridgelys, their carpet, and her own relatives. Cholera is not "mortal" in Philadelphia this year with prompt and proper care. Refers to a niece whose tonsils must be removed. Wants her friend to recommend a ten- or twelve-year-old Negro girl of respectable family who can either be bound or "come for her clothes."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

HON. H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from ARNOLD NAUDAIN, Wilmington, May 11, 1835.

Wishes a statement of his share of his father's personal estate from the distribution account passed in January, 1830. Will visit Dover soon.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from H. J. WHITELEY, Wilmington, June 16, 1835.

Requests Mr. Ridgely's attendance at an important meeting of the Trustees of New Ark College, called to decide whether to accept the Lottery Law to raise \$50,000 for the institution, and to fill some vacancies on their own board.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 21, 1835.

Acknowledges undated letters from Ann and his wife. Sends a check for \$20.00, noting that Mrs. Ridgely failed to state how much she needed. Regrets that Henry [Ridgely, Jr.] has left them; "You certainly will not go unprotected to Phila[delphia] for Willy [Williamina Ridgely]."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[HENRY M.] RIDGELY, [Dover], from JACOB WHITAKER, [no address], Sept. 14, 1835.

Begs to be excused from coming to Dover to testify, since he could only state that \$293.13 had been paid.

A. N. S. 1 p. 21cm. x 16.5cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JOS . . . G. OLIVER, [no address], Oct. 22, 1835.

Wishes an originally enclosed account "with my late ward Reuben Tharp" closed on the books [of the Register of Wills Office] in proper form, showing Tharp's receipt for payment of the balance due him.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from P[RESLEY] SPRUANCE, [JR.], Smyrna, [Del.], April 19, 1836.

Will call as soon as he returns from Philadelphia and "make the necessary explanations in relation to my account of Mr. [Abraham] Pierce's estate."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, [New Castle, Del.], May 9, 1836.

Inquires whether [servant] Wesley has decided about coming to New Castle. Believes he would suit him, and is willing to take him "on hire or on indenture, giving him a certain sum of money when free." Prefers the latter arrangement. Mentions Dr. [James] Couper, [Jr.].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.4cm. x 32cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, c/o J. R. Black, New Castle, Del., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 3, 1836.

Asks who will "compose the travelling party to Baltimore and Washington." Consents to Ann's going only if "another unmarried lady," who can be her roommate and constant com-

panion, accompanies her. Suggests Sarah Black. "Tell Miss Elizabeth [Black] I wish her all possible happiness" [in her marriage to John C. Groome].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from J[AMES] R. BLACK, New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 12, 1837.

Ann [Ridgely] was deeply distressed to learn, when she arrived at New Castle, of the death of her aunt [Mrs. W. W. Wright] and of her mother's indisposition. Hopes Mrs. Ridgely's illness is the result only of grief over her sister. Discusses Ann's return and mentions Nicholas [Ridgely] who came to accompany her down in the stage. Cannot find his notes on "the case of the State use of Graham vs Wild" and believes they are still in the possession of Mr. [Samuel M.] Harrington, to whom he handed over his Sup[er]ior Court records. Mr. Harrington did not report that case, as he supposed the amendment to the Intestate Act which the decision evoked had precluded similar issues.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 24cm. x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIAM] B. COOPER, Laurel, Del., April 22, 1837.

Would like to purchase one of the lots Chancellor [Nicholas Ridgely] owned in Geo[rge] Town, [Del.], since the Legislature has empowered the Levy Court to have all offices erected on public lands in that town removed and he supposes it will be necessary to move "the office built and occupied for more than twenty y[ea]rs by my brother."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from C[ORNELIUS] P. COMEGYS, "Cherbourg", [Kent County, Del.], Mar. 13, 1838.

Asks Mr. Ridgely as an "old and particular friend" to assist his son William [Comegys], whom he has just commissioned "as your successor in office" [as Register of Wills for Kent County]. Feels the appointment requires no explanation "as you are well acquainted with my situation." Wishes Nicholas [Ridgely] to "remain with William in the office".

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25.8cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIAM] LINN BROWN, 208 Pine Street, Philad[elphi]a, July 10, 1839.

Mr. Ridgely will receive a commission "to take the testimony of John M. Clayton of Dover in a case in which John Randel, Jr., is complainant and myself respondent." Also sends

a document "to be attached to said Clayton's deposition on his cross examination." Has empowered Martin W. Bates to act for him if Mr. Ridgely cannot do so. Wishes a week's notice of the execution of the commission.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Georgetown, Del., from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, April 19, 1840.

Hopes Charles [George Ridgely] will decline appointment as a delegate to the [Whig] Convention, since the trip will be expensive and of no political or professional advantage. Should he insist upon going, urges that [Mrs. C. G. Ridgely] accompany him, for she alone "can influence and control him and . . . keep him steady when temptations surround him." Nicholas must bring Edward [Ridgely] home but may return to Georgetown if he wishes.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

DR. JAMES COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., from [HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, Aug. 25, 1840.

Suggests a change in the inscription he has prepared for the tombstone of his friend James R. Black. Has followed his personal taste for simplicity in epitaphs. Emphasizes that he considers the Black family free to alter or discard his draught. Offers them his affectionate sympathy and any services he may be able to render.

A. Df. U., 2 pp. + 1, 14cm. x 16cm. [1 enclosure].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JA[ME]S COUPER, New Castle, Del., Aug. 31, 1840.

The inscription which Mr. Ridgely prepared in honor of Mr. [James R.] Black meets the approval of the late Judge's entire family, all of whom are extremely grateful for the service. They suggest two minor alterations. Mrs. [James] Couper is eager for a visit from Misses Annie and "Willy" [Ridgely]. The family has had distressing news from "Capt. . . . Pierce, who married Mr. [John] Groome's only sister." Three of the Pierce children have died within the past week, and Mrs. Pierce is critically ill. All are reported to have suffered from "congestive Fever," but he doubts the diagnosis. Is gravely worried about Mrs. Pierce, of whom they have heard nothing for several days.

A. L. S., 2 + 1 pp., 20cm. x 25.4cm. [1 enclosure].

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from W[ILLIA]M B. COOPER, Laurel, Del., Dec. 25, 1840.

Since his visit to Dover will be as a "public man" he will lodge at a public house, and is declining all private invitations. Would have liked to accept the one from Mr. Ridgely. Mrs. Cooper prefers not to "go so far from home" at this inclement time of year.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] JA[M]ES COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, Del., May 21, 1841.

Fears he misunderstood what the General Board [of the Farmers Bank] decided with regard to certain assets and liabilities of [James R.] Black's estate, and asks a clarification. Mentions the attorneys James Rogers and Mr. . . . Gray.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, June 11, 1841.

Has found, in the month since her wedding, that he misses his daughter [née Ann Ridgely] almost as deeply as he did her mother, but is well pleased with her marriage. Looks forward to renewing his friendship with the heads of the duPont families. Mentions Mrs. [Victorine] Bauduy. Welcomes any guests Ann may wish to bring with her when she and her husband visit Dover.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, on the Brandywine, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, June 20, 1841.

Will have Nicholas met at "the landing" when he returns. Will be happy to entertain Mr. [Charles I.] duPont and his children on the date named, and to welcome Ann's friends at any time. Liked Bishop-elect [Alfred] Lee, who dined with him during a tour of the State. Discusses the wording of an inscription Mr. duPont prepared for Col. [John] Haslet's tomb. Edward [Ridgely] is recovering from measles.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.8cm.

MRS. C. I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from [HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, Oct. 16, 1842.

Sends a check for \$10.00 for replenishing "Willy's" [Ridgely] wardrobe. Never remembers a time when collections in [Kent] County were so difficult, for grain harvests have been poor for two seasons. Prices are low this year. There is suffering now and much fear of worse conditions to come.

A. L. [S. torn off] 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MRS. C. I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 18, 1842.

Has sent a barrel of flour, made in Kent County from his own spring wheat, as a gift to the duPonts. Wishes it compared with the product of the Brandywine millers, who deny good flour can be made from spring wheat. Shipped it aboard Sipple and Pennewill's vessel, via Neal and Barratt of Philadelphia, to be sent back to Wilmington. Expects his daughter, her husband and Mary [duPont] to stay at his home during the legislative session. Refers to his granddaughter as "Miss Amelia" [duPont].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from JA[ME]S A. PARKER, George Town, [Del.], July 15, 1844.

Reports the death of Charles G[eorge] Ridgely "this morning". Asks his father to come at once, and to notify other relatives.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Aug. 16, 1844.

Explains the financial arrangements he has made to assist Mrs. E[lizabeth] C. Ridgely [widow of Charles George Ridgely]. Was surprised at the request she made of Mr. [C. I.] duPont. Sends a check to settle "Willy's" [Ridgely] account.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.3cm x 25cm.

HENRY M. RIDGELY, Dover, from W. P. CHANDLER, H[ENR]Y ASKEW, and W[ILLIA]M D. OCHILTREE, Wilmington, Aug. 26, 1844.

Acting as a committee, they invite Mr. Ridgely to address "the County Meeting to be held by the Democracy of New Castle County at Del[aware] City . . . Sept. 14th." Hopes he may "again be heard in the Democratic camp now when an hour of peril is at hand."

L. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 24.5cm.

MESSRS. W. P. CHANDLER, H. F. ASKEW and W. T. OCHILTREE, Corresponding Committee, Wilmington, from H[ENRY] M. RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 2, 1844.

Regrets that a long-continued "severe affection of the breast and throat" makes it impossible for him to speak for the Democratic ticket, which he supports.

A. Cy. S., 1 p., 19.6cm. x 24.5cm. [On same sheet as entry above].



ELIZABETH RIDGELY ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE. FROM A
WATER COLOR PAINTED CIRCA 1827

CHAPTER III

CHILDREN OF HENRY M. RIDGELY, ESQ.

The varied correspondence of Henry M. and Sally (Banning) Ridgely's sons and daughters offers an even broader opportunity for studying young people's activities than did the letters in the first volume of this series. Of their fifteen children, only three shortlived infants are not mentioned in any part of the correspondence. All who survived babyhood are represented in some manner in the present chapter.

Their daily life, desires, hopes and misfortunes are disclosed in their letters to their parents, to one another, to some of their cousins and to friends. It is to be remembered that Henry M. Ridgely's children were not the only representatives of the fourth generation of the family. There were their cousins, the children of Mary (Ridgely) Morris¹ and the two daughters of Mr. Ridgely's brother, Dr. Abraham Ridgely. Unfortunately these latter cousins died before Henry M. Ridgely's children were old enough to correspond.

Conforming to the editorial plan of this series,² biographical sketches follow for all of Henry M. Ridgely's children concerned in the correspondence except Ann and Nicholas, whose biographies and letters will comprise the third and final volume of this series.

Charles George Ridgely was born in Dover, August 12, 1804, the eldest child of Henry M. Ridgely and his wife Sally (Banning). An attractive, friendly, precocious little boy, the eldest grandchild in both the Ridgely and Banning-McKee families, he was petted by adoring relatives, whose affectionate attention to him was intensified by the deaths of each of his parents' next four children. He was nearly nine when his sister Elizabeth, the first after himself to survive infancy, was born. After elementary instruction in Dover, received partly from his parents and partly from a series of schoolmasters, he was entered at St. Mary's College, Baltimore, when he was twelve. While

¹William and Anna Maria Morris are represented in this chapter by letters to various ones of their cousins; and they, with Emily and a sister Isabelle (Louisa), who died in infancy, are mentioned in other parts of the *Calendar*. William Morris has living descendants. Anna Maria Morris, who became the second wife of Judge Caleb S. Layton, was childless. Emily Morris remained single.

²The abstracts of the children's letters to their parents are in the chapter devoted to the parents until the child reached its majority in accordance with the editorial plan explained in the Foreword.

family records do not include proof of graduation, it is implied in his brother Henry's correspondence. On July 1, 1822, when he was not quite eighteen, he became a cadet at West Point Military Academy. He was brevetted second lieutenant in the First Infantry on July 1, 1826, ranking fifth in a class of forty-one. After graduation, he was retained at the Academy as an instructor, family tradition says in French, a subject in which he had excelled.

He resigned his commission in February 1827, at his father's insistence. The reason for the step is not fully evident from extant records. It is possible that Senator Ridgely feared the young officer was becoming dissipated. It is also possible that his ambition for him pointed to the law rather than the Army as a route for preferment, or even that he felt his one grown son should be in Dover during his own absence, to assist Mrs. Ridgely with the management of the family. The letters give plausible reason for accepting any one of these suppositions.

None of these objectives was achieved. In Dover, the young man was thrown with companions his father considered "ruinous"; at all events the letters show he was soon drinking intemperately enough to cause a breach with his family. Although he apparently began to study law in desultory fashion shortly after his return home and continued it at intervals over a long period, it was fully a dozen years after his Army career was terminated before he succeeded in establishing firm occupational roots. In the intervening years he unsuccessfully sought employment as a civil engineer, taught in academies at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and Dover and Smyrna, Delaware, began a course of study in preparation for the Episcopal ministry, and possibly dabbled in other pursuits not alluded to in the family records which have survived.

His correspondence shows evidence of several romances. One had been blocked by his mother's objection; another, with a charming and intelligent Philadelphia girl, Charlotte Haly, was restrained by financial considerations until his ardor had cooled; at another time he told his sister he was about to make "a declaration" to a young woman obviously known to her, but not identified to us. On September 23, 1835 he married a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Brincklee, daughter of Jacob Biddle, who had

nearly-grown children by her previous marriage to Dr. John Brincklee. Two children, George Henry and Charles Ridgely, were born to Charles George Ridgely and his wife.

Before the spring of 1840 he was settled in a law practice in Georgetown, Delaware; and in 1841 he was elected a Representative to the General Assembly. At about this time he indicated to various members of the family that he was encouraged at the degree of success he had achieved in his first few years of practice. Also in 1841 he began to hope he might receive appointment to a judgeship on the expected retirement of the incumbent, so that he might live in the country, sparing his delicate health the strain of active pleading. While the letters include no specific indication of the nature of this ill health, the fact that some years earlier he had suffered an extremely severe case of inflammatory rheumatism suggests rheumatic heart damage as at least a contributing factor, undoubtedly aggravated by the periodic intemperance he never completely mastered. On July 15, 1844, he died, a month less than forty years of age.

Charles George Ridgely received five of the letters abstracted in this chapter, and wrote forty, of which twenty-nine were to Elizabeth and ten to Ann. His correspondents outside the immediate family were his Aunt Mary Morris, who had an especial affection for him throughout his life, William Wright, the husband of his Aunt Elizabeth McKee, and two friends from his student days, Lt. Charles Colerick and Dr. E. Jenner Smith. In addition to the letters he himself wrote, he supplied a frequent topic of discussion among his relatives from babyhood until after his own death. Consequently his name appears in each chapter of this *Calendar* which is concerned with his contemporaries. Letters he wrote his parents, his sister Ann subsequent to her marriage, and his brother Nicholas as an adult have been abstracted with the recipient's correspondence. Charles George Ridgely's personal papers in this collection are two in number, both hand-folded notebooks. One appears to be lecture notes on American history, probably dating from his West Point days; the other is made up of essays, prayers, and reflections during the period when he was a divinity student.

While no adult portraits of him are known, Edward Ridgely's descendants own a silhouette made when he appears to have been about eleven years old.

A son Nicholas Ridgely, their second child, was born to Henry M. and Sally Ridgely on January 27, 1806, when Charles George was seventeen months old. He died near Wilmington, probably at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. William McKee, a little less than three months later.

His next youngest brother was John Banning Ridgely, born January 22, 1807. This little boy, who became the particular favorite of his Aunt Williamina Ridgely, had almost reached the age of fourteen months when he died in Dover on March 20, 1808.

On January 5, 1809, Henry M. Ridgely's first daughter, named Williamina in memory of his sister who had died the previous spring, was born. The child died September 3, 1810, apparently as a result of one of the "summer complaints" to which toddling children were then so frequently subject. At the time of the baby's death, or following shortly upon it, Mrs. Ridgely suffered a very severe illness, the description of which suggests typhoid fever.

The couple's fifth child, another son whom they christened Abraham, was born February 10, 1811, while his mother was little more than convalescent. Small and frail, he was prey to all the infections that attacked the young children of Dover during an unhealthful year. At the age of seventeen months, on September 22, 1812, he succumbed to the last in the series of illnesses that had plagued his short life. Each of these four children was mentioned in the correspondence of one or more relatives; but no portraits of any of them, or personal papers concerning them, are known to exist.

On February 27, 1813, a second daughter, Elizabeth, was born. She grew from a healthy baby into a happy little girl, and soon into a lovely young lady in appearance while still a tempestuous child in actual age. When she was barely fourteen she believed herself enough in love with a Dover youth to be determined upon marrying him. A fragment among her personal papers, indeed, reads like the prelude to an attempt at suicide from thwarted love, in romantic folk-ballad style. Her mother promptly dispatched her to school in Philadelphia, in the care of her aunt, Mrs. Ridgely's half-sister Elizabeth, then the wife of William Wright. There, in the atmosphere of a cultivated and fashionable city home, with cousins near her own age to

help her fit quickly into its routine, she apparently soon forgot her enchantment. She was not, however, happy at school, especially after she was enrolled at Mrs. Grelaud's as a boarding student. A few months after she passed her fifteenth birthday, in the spring of 1828, she returned home, her formal schooling apparently completed, although her mother insisted that she must continue to study under the direction of her father and her brother Charles George who was at that time at home.

Late in 1829, when she approached seventeen, she was converted to Methodism, and, so far as available records show, remained a member of that church the balance of her life. That year had been, as the next was destined to be, filled with social activities and a variety of other absorbing interests. The letters infer that she had a large circle of friends among her contemporaries, and a considerable number of suitors, few of whom are fully identified.

It appears to have been early in 1830 that she contracted measles, complicated by a severe cold during convalescence. She never fully recovered from the effects of the illness, which her family regarded as the beginning of the tuberculosis which soon attacked her. On February 12, 1833, two weeks before she would have marked her twentieth birthday, she succumbed to the disease. Her grave, like those of most of her family, is in Christ Churchyard.

She wrote but four of the letters in this chapter, but received seventy-four. Among these, thirty-four were from brothers or sisters, nineteen from aunts, uncles or cousins, and the others from friends not known to be related to her. Correspondents within the family were Charles George, Ann and Henry Ridgely; Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely; Mary (Ridgely) Morris and her children William and Anna Maria; and Mrs. William Wright and her daughter Elizabeth, afterwards Mrs. Edward Gillilan. A certain "E. Denn", probably the person elsewhere called Betsy Denn, of Salem, New Jersey, may also have been a distant cousin. Other friends and acquaintances included Lucinda Hall, only child of Judge Willard Hall, William Huffington, Philippa Barber, Eugene Rogers, Mrs. Ann Booth, Elizabeth Bradford, Eliza Naudain, Eugene Rogers, Harriet Caverly, A. T. Sipple, obviously a girl around her own age, and a Mr. McCallum, probably the clergyman of that name who served briefly at

Christ Church. Most of these individuals were Kent County neighbors, or the young people of families friendly with the Ridgelys. A few additional correspondents cannot be fully identified. Elizabeth Ridgely's personal papers owned by the Public Archives Commission but not abstracted in the *Calendar* comprise twenty-two items. They include verse, original and transcribed; fragments of homesick notes started while at school; memoranda concerning her religious experience, church matters and the Dover Union Sabbath School; and a lock of her hair.

Two likenesses of Elizabeth Ridgely are extant, a silhouette made when she was perhaps two years old, and a small water-color painted when she was about sixteen. Both are the property of Edward Ridgely's descendants.

Ann Ridgely, the seventh child of her parents and the third to survive, was almost exactly two years Elizabeth's junior. Her birthday was February 21, 1815. She was destined to a long life, recorded in a correspondence extensive enough to make her, after her marriage, the subject of an independent chapter, which comprises the largest unit in volume III of this *Calendar*. A biographical sketch of her will introduce that chapter.

Henry Ridgely, the eighth child of Henry M. and Sally Ridgely, and the fourth of those who survived babyhood, was born April 15, 1817. A family story relates that when he was still quite small he arrived at the door of "Eden Hill" announcing that there were too many children at home, so he had come to live with "Uncle Ridgely", the name by which all of Henry M. Ridgely's sons and daughters called Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely. It is certain that an informal adoption took place before Henry was more than ten years old, and that from that time he did live with his childless uncle and aunt, who supervised his education and eventually made him their principal heir.

At ten, he was sent to Newark Academy, to which the Chancellor was attracted by "the Manners and Morals of the Place" as well as by the presence of a friend who would be responsible for the boy. Later he was transferred to Dwight's Gymnasium, in New Haven, Connecticut, and in 1832 to St. Mary's College, Baltimore. After graduation in 1836, he was entered as a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received his degree in 1839.

While he had been fascinated by medical theory and challenged by difficult problems, he found the confining routine of a county practice irksome. Within a few years he abandoned it to devote his time principally to agriculture. In this field he was eminently successful, especially with peaches and grain crops. Financial affairs also claimed his interest from early manhood. In 1843, at twenty-six, he was chosen a director of the Farmers Bank, and in 1849 became its third president, succeeding his father-in-law and his own father. When the long-quiescent Delaware Railroad project was revived in 1849, Dr. Ridgely was among the promoters; and in 1852, when the Delaware Railroad Company was organized, he was one of the directors named. This post he held until 1865, when he sided with the growers against the company in a suit for damages the peach farmers suffered through the railroad's failure to transport the crop. He likewise served as a director and later as president of the Kent County Mutual Insurance Company, and as an official of two building and loan companies.

Although Dr. Henry Ridgely was interested in public affairs all his life, and in his earlier adult years was active in the Democratic Party, he held no public office. During the Civil War he was among those who, while opposing secession for Delaware, believed the Lincoln Administration had provoked the conflict and argued against attempting to hold the South by force.

In November 1843, he married Virginia Jenkins, of Camden, Delaware, a daughter of Jonathan and Ruth (Emerson) Jenkins. Four children, a still-born daughter, a son Jonathan, and daughters Ruthanna and Sarah, were born to the couple, but only Ruthanna lived beyond infancy. The death of Jonathan, a handsome and precocious child not quite two years old, was an especially bitter sorrow to his parents.

Dr. Ridgely and his wife continued to live at "Eden Hill" until 1869, when they built a home on State Street in Dover. After Mrs. Ridgely died in May 1896, her husband married a second time. He himself died September 17, 1904, survived by his daughter Ruthanna, who had been the wife and widow of Richard Harrington and was then the wife of Dr. James H. Wilson, and three grandchildren, Maxwell, Ridgely, and Virginia

Harrington. Dr. Ridgely is buried in the family plot beside the walls of Christ Church, of which he had been a member and for many years a warden.

This chapter contains a single letter addressed to Henry Ridgely, and fifty-five composed by him. Forty-nine of these were to his sister Ann, mostly while he was at college and medical school between 1833 and 1838. Three were to his intended bride, Virginia Jenkins, not long before their marriage in 1843. Two were to his sister Elizabeth, and one to Williamina. The only additional personal paper in his file is a draft of a deed to a share in "Fox Hall", granted as Edward's guardian to Charles I. and Ann duPont.

A little daughter Juliet was born to Henry M. Ridgely and his wife on January 20, 1819, but lived only until November 8, 1820. Since no family letters dated within the twenty-one months of her life appear in this collection, she does not enter into the story it tells.

Nicholas Ridgely, his parents' second child of that name, was born December 18, 1820. Although he died at a few days less than twenty-nine years of age, his preserved correspondence, like his sister Ann's was of sufficient volume to justify a separate chapter. A sketch of his life will be found in volume III of this *Calendar*.

On May 4, 1822, Eugene Ridgely was born, the eleventh child of Henry M. and Sally Ridgely, and the sixth to survive early childhood. The family records do not show where he was educated, nor many details of his boyhood. They do, however, afford glimpses of a charming little boy, youth and young man, somewhat reminiscent of his Uncle George Ridgely in his genial sociability and his fondness for animals. He possessed a piquant and Puckish sense of humor, mellowed by a kindly nature. While he was still in his teens, he began to assume responsibility for some of the management of his father's farm properties, the burden of which had apparently become almost wholly his before Mr. Ridgely's death. When the estate was settled, the heirs agreed that since this brother had devoted to the family interests the years in which he could most readily have established himself in a business or profession of his own, the others should assign full possession of "Linden" farm to him. Its care provided his principal occupation for the remainder of his life.

Much to the concern of his brothers and sisters, who felt he needed a wife to make his life as a farmer pleasant and efficient, he did not marry until he was almost thirty-two. On December 20, 1853, he was married to Mary Ann Mifflin, a Quaker, like his brother Henry's wife. The couple had but one child, a son whom they named Daniel, and who in time succeeded to the ownership of "Linden." Eugene Ridgely died January 11, 1894, and was buried in the Friends' Cemetery in Camden, Delaware.

As has been previously mentioned, Eugene Ridgely was not an active participant in the correspondence included in this chapter, although several of his later letters to Ann (Ridgely) duPont and Nicholas Ridgely have been preserved.

Mary Ridgely, the twelfth child of Henry M. and Sally Ridgely, lived but nine months, from September 17, 1824 to June 10, 1825. The thirteenth child was the only infant in their large family to die at birth, in January 1826. Neither baby is directly mentioned in the correspondence.

On May 29, 1827, a fourteenth child was born, a daughter for whom the name Williamina was chosen. The letters show her as an attractive, affectionate little girl, something of a tom-boy as a child, and possessed of many friends. Her early schooling was in Dover, but whether at home, in the public school which was well established by the time she was old enough to attend, or in one of the small private schools which still flourished is not known. Since she was but ten years old when her mother died, the relation between her and her sister Ann soon became almost that of mother and daughter. When Ann married Charles I. duPont, she succeeded in persuading their father to enroll "Willy" in Dubre Knight's school in Wilmington. During her months there she formed an especially intimate friendship with Mr. duPont's daughter Mary and pleasant comradeships with many of the duPont young people and their friends. These associations were continued through her life.

For several years after her father's remarriage she remained a member of his household, although she enjoyed frequent visits with her sister at "Louviers" on the Brandywine. At twenty, on June 10, 1847, Williamina was married to Alexander Johnson, a well-to-do farmer from lower Kent County, whose public offices were to include the posts of sheriff, state representative and state senator, and who also had varied private

business interests. She was an adored bride and cherished wife, who enjoyed whatever conveniences and luxuries the time and place afforded; none the less her life was often lonely on "Coon Den" farm, in Mispillion Hundred, several miles from the village of Milford. Not infrequently it was physically difficult, for the wife of even a prosperous farmer had much supervision of the general housekeeping, cooking and mending, management of the poultry, and the care of a flower garden if she wished to have one. Her household included "hands" as well as the family proper. Yet despite the isolation of her home and the hard work it entailed, young Mrs. Johnson appears to have been a happy wife.

Six children were born to the couple, Henry, Elizabeth, James, Nicholas and Annie Johnson, and an infant who died at birth. Elizabeth died as a very small child, and James as a young schoolboy. Williamina herself died very suddenly on June 25, 1859 from complications of childbirth. She had recently passed her thirty-second birthday.

No letters Williamina Ridgely wrote are included in this chapter, although after her sister Ann's marriage she became one of her frequent correspondents. Of the three letters in the group addressed to her, one is a note from her brother Henry announcing the birth of his son; and two are from her intimate friend Mary duPont, her sister's step-daughter.

The youngest child of Henry M. and Sally (Banning) Ridgely was a son, Edward, whose birth occurred January 30, 1831. His mother's delicate health during the closing years of her life threw much of the responsibility for "Ned's" upbringing upon his sister Ann. Some of it likewise fell to the capable hands of beloved "Mammy Margaret," a former slave who had remained a member of the Ridgely household after her emancipation. Mrs. Ridgely died when this son was but six.

He was educated in Dover, partly, it appears, in the public school and partly by private instruction. By the time of his father's death, when the youth was sixteen, he had exhausted the facilities of Dover. He was entered at St. Mary's College, Wilmington, for the fall term of 1847, where he remained until his graduation in 1850. He apparently began the study of law promptly upon his return to Dover. In the fall of 1851 he enrolled for a term at the Law School of Yale College. After a

year of further study in Dover, he was admitted in April 1853 to the Delaware bar, before which he practiced with distinction for the remainder of his life.

Like his brother Dr. Henry Ridgely, Edward Ridgely had an active interest in public affairs, but no taste for officeholding. His one public appointment was as Delaware's Secretary of State during Governor William Burton's term, at the beginning of the Civil War. Also like his brother, Edward Ridgely had great sympathy for the Southern position without favoring secession for Delaware. While his law practice occupied the major portion of his time, he devoted some of it to other pursuits. He was a director of the Farmers Bank, a member of the Board of Education in Dover, and an active vestryman of Christ Church. This old church was very dear to him. He had barely graduated from college when he undertook to have the neglected, weed-grown churchyard put in order and properly maintained; and, when an active parish was re-established in 1859, he was one of those who took an eager interest in the renovations to fit the original building for services "for all time to come."

On June 22, 1859, he was married to Elizabeth Comegys, a niece of his step-mother. He and his wife became the parents of four children, Harriet, Edward, Sarah and Henry Ridgely, of whom all but Edward, who died at twenty, survived their father. Mr. Ridgely himself died October 17, 1900. His grave is in the family plot in Christ Churchyard, where his widow, sons and daughters now also lie.

It was the youngest of Edward's children, his son Henry Ridgely, who was in manhood to become the owner of the two historic Ridgely properties, the home on Dover Green and "Eden Hill". He likewise continued the family tradition of distinction in the law and in public service. His early education was received in Dover, from private tutors, at the public school, and at the Wilmington Conference Academy, predecessor of the present Wesley Junior College. Later he attended the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1916 was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Delaware. Among the most outstanding Delaware lawyers of his generation, particularly in his practice before the Court of

Chancery, he served at various times as President of the Delaware Bar Association and the Kent County Bar Association. He compiled *Ridgely's Digest of the Judicial Reports of Delaware*. Like his grandfather and his uncle, he was chosen as President of the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware. During his administration of its affairs, he was elected President of the Delaware Bankers Association. While Henry Ridgely held no major elective public office, his influence upon public affairs in the State was far-reaching. He drafted many of the basic statutes in the fields of banking, taxation, elections, agriculture, libraries and public archives adopted in Delaware between 1897 and 1940. In public education his influence was especially noteworthy, for in addition to taking a leading part in drafting major revisions of the State school laws in 1898 and 1919, he was at one period an active member of the School Board in Dover, was President of the State Board of Education in 1914-1916, 1935-1937, and 1939-1940, and served as a Trustee of the University of Delaware. He was also a member, usually an officer, of numerous private organizations concerned with civic matters and with local history. On June 1, 1893, he was married to Mabel Lloyd Fisher, daughter of Charles and Philippa (Lloyd) Fisher. His wife and their only child, Philippa Elizabeth, the wife of Harold Wolfe Horsey, survived him at his death on July 18, 1940.

Edward Ridgely, in this section of the *Calendar*, is repeatedly mentioned as the beloved baby brother of the family from his actual infancy until he had become an earnest lad in his teens, but he was a direct participant in the correspondence in only one instance. The final volume in this series, however, includes a substantial number of letters between him and his sister Ann after her marriage. The allusions to Edward's son Henry Ridgely, all of them, unfortunately, brief and casual, are to be found in that volume.

The existence of portraits of the children of Henry M. Ridgely has been noted only in the instances of those members of the family who died before, or within a few years after, 1840. For those who lived into the period after photography was well established, the survival of at least one photograph is almost a matter of course.

ABSTRACTS

CHARLES GEORGE RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., from M[ARY] R. [MRS. WILLIAM] MORRIS, Dover, Sept. 30, 1816.

Reproves her beloved nephew for failure to write. Mentions Elizabeth and Ann Ridgely and her own children. Inquires for Mr. . . . West, and Mr. . . . Morris [of Baltimore or vicinity].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] ANNA MARIE [MORRIS], State House Square, [Dover, c. 1826].

Returns her cousin's fan with a bantering note about mosquitoes, darning, and school affairs.

A. N. S. 3 pp. 10cm. x 12.8cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from A[NN] RIDGELY and [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY], Dover, April 2, 1826.

Discusses a box of oranges, her corsets, other articles from Philadelphia, her studies, and the garden. Mentions Mrs. . . . Manny and Helen [Davis].

Mrs. Ridgely hopes to enter Elizabeth [Ridgely] at Mrs. [D.] Grelaud's school, which Williamina Goldsborough attends. Alludes to a "dreadful circumstance" never to be discussed again, and forgotten except as a warning. Mentions Brother Charles [George Ridgely], Mary Harrington, Mrs. . . . Wiltbank and [Mrs. William Wright].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 23.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, West Point, [N. Y.], April 22, 1826.

Is worried at not hearing from home in over a month. Has no news, for he lives "on a little spot shut up entirely by the [Catskill] Mountains and by the [Hudson] River." Inquires about Elizabeth [Ridgely] who was in Philadelphia when he last heard from her.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, West Point, N. Y., May 3, 1826.

Is amazed to learn their mother has been ill for a considerable time. Praises Ann's progress in history and advises her about spelling and reading. His own schedule at the Military

Academy begins with drill or a recitation in tactics at 6 A. M., breakfast at 7 A. M., study from 8 A. M. until 4 P. M. with an hour's intermission for dinner at one, then drill, "evening parade", supper, followed by study until 10 P. M. Alludes to his family's having "moved in the town" [from "Linden" farm].

Adds a note to his mother, wishing her a quick recovery, asking about bringing Elizabeth from Philadelphia on his return home after graduation next month; and commenting upon the numerous conversions the minister, Mr. [Charles P.] McIlvaine, has made in the [Cadet] Corps since introducing Gregory's *Letters* and "Beaten on Truth".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.3cm.

LT. CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, U. S. Army, West Point, N. Y., from LT. [CHARLES] COLERICK, Philadelphia, Oct. 17, 1826.

"Endeavor to bring *our Gentleman* to some terms". Writes facetiously of "Van" and "Charly C-".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 31cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o MME. [D.] GRELAUD, 120 S. 3rd St., Philad[elphia], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Jan. 11, 1827.

Extends delayed New Year's greetings.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

LT. CHA[RLE]S G[EORGE] RIDGELY, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., from DR. E. JENNER SMITH, near Natchez, [Miss.], Jan. 12, 1827.

Writes lightly about his lonely life, their mutual acquaintances, and his own and Charles' prospects for marriage.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 18.8cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Phila[delphia], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, New Castle, [Del.], Mar. 9, 1827.

Urges his sister to make profitable use of her time at school. A young lady's "knowledge" and "polish" is an even more important consideration than "external charm." Mentions their father, Mr. and Mrs. . . . Pennywell, and cousin Elizabeth [Davis].

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MISS ANN RIDGELY], Dover, from HELEN DAVIS, Philadelphia, April 14, 1827.

Reports that Elizabeth [Ridgely] likes school, which occupies her from nine till six, but not her music. "Mother and Father [Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wright] had to hold a tight rein on her at first but now she is indeed perfect." Hopes she will not be sent to boarding school. Writes of her own sister Elizabeth [Davis], infant brother John Stone Wright, a missed cotillion party, the Ridgely family and her father's trip concerning the cargo of a ship from France.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, May 11, 1827.

Sternly warns his niece against accepting the attentions of W[illia]m Warner. Blames Charles [George Ridgely], who should study the Parable of the Prodigal Son, for encouraging the friendship. Plans to enter Henry [Ridgely] at NewArk Academy, because of the "good manners and Morality of that Village".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 7, 1827.

George Kennard and Mary Martin's children both died recently. Evenings on the porch are dull now with Elizabeth away and "the piano . . . mute."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 19, 1827.

Reproves Elizabeth for dissatisfaction with school, assuring her she is missing nothing in being away from Dover, and pointing out the importance of using her time well. "Tell Mr. [William] Wright to read *Niles' Register* and become a Jackson-man."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 120 S. Third St., Philadelphia, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Nov. 30, 1827.

Father [H. M. Ridgely] left yesterday for Washington [as U. S. Senator]. The family is glad Elizabeth is happier. Dover, seething with slanderous rumors, is not a pleasant town now.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from [MISS] A[NN] RIDGELY and S. [MRS. H. M.] RIDGELY, Dover, Dec. 14, 19, 1827.

Ann says Dover is dull since the circus left. Mentions Sarah Ricard's engagement to Perey Battele [Perry Battell].

Her mother discusses goods from Philadelphia and Mr. [W. W.] Wright's illness. Is busy managing the household in Mr. Ridgely's absence.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [HELEN DAVIS], Philadelphia, Sept 5, [c. 1828].

Is hurt that Ann has not paid a promised visit. Hopes they will go to boarding school in Princeton, [New Jersey] together. "Mr. . . . Robejo at Mrs. [D.] Grelaud's is dead." Sends messages to the Ridgely family.

A. L. U. [incomplete], 1 p., 19.6cm. x 31cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Dover], from [CHANCELLOR] NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [near Dover], Sept. 13, 1828.

Sends a "pill of Calomel" for her mother. His own wife is not well.

A. L. S. 1 p. 16cm. x 20cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH] DENN, Salem, [N. J.], Nov. 28, 1828.

Describes a trip home from Dover in a fierce storm. The [Delaware] River was so rough the steamboat *Essex* could not dock at Delaware City to take passengers and unload freight. Mentions Mr. . . . Field and Mr. . . . Latrobe.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from LUCINDA [HALL], Wilmington, Dec. 4, 1828.

Is delighted at her friend's new interest in religion, and at "Cousin Eliza's . . ." suggestion. Writes to her at length on the meaning of being a Christian.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], Dec. 12, 1828.

Is bored with Philadelphia. Their aunt [Mrs. W. W. Wright] advises yellow blinds with trimmings of black or Prussian blue, as "more tasty for a drawing Room or parlour than the green." Quotes prices of black velvet hats and lace veils. Black gauze veils are also worn.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. W. W.] W[RIGHT, Philadelphia, post Dec. 12, 1828].

Is sending Elizabeth a hat with "one Ostrich feather . . . the newest fashion," a "blonde gauze" veil which is "more becoming than lace . . . and the newest article", gloves, and a Decano cape. Tells of making the cape, and how it is to be worn. Mentions errands for Mrs. Ridgely, and Charles' [George Ridgely] "steady" conduct.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], Dec. 18, 1828.

Has enjoyed a series of informal parties at the Wrights' home. Madame . . . Feron and "the Signorina" are the season's leading vocalists. . . . Wallock is appearing on the stage. Amusements in Philadelphia are "much more rational" than in Dover. Is seeking appointment as an assistant civil engineer. Was not impressed by the oratory at a recent gathering of young men. "Cousin [Elizabeth Davis] comes out . . . this winter." Helen [Davis] hopes Ann [Ridgely] may join her at school in Alexandria, [Virginia].

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, 161 Walnut St., Philadelphia, from [anonymous, n.p.], 1828.

" . . . be the consequence what it will, I am determined to see you soon." Denies a charge she has made. Signed "your Lover."

A. L. [S. inferred]

2 pp.

20cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from [MRS.] M[ARY] R[IDGELY] M[ORRIS, Dover, c. Feb., 1829].

Wishes two letters delivered. Asks if Elizabeth will come home before going to Washington [to Andrew Jackson's inaugural].

A. N. S.

1 p.

20cm. x 12.7cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY and MISS [ELIZABETH] DAVIS, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], Feb. 10, 1828 [1829].

Describes "the longest morning I ever knew", following the departure of his sister and cousin for Washington. Tells of a call from "Little Billy" and two dull church services. Alludes

to Elizabeth's veil taking fire. Facetiously reports an adventure involving Jacob Broom, Miss . . . Kid, Miss . . . Chamberlain and Mr. . . . Todd. Hopes the family had no difficulty at the Susquehanna crossing.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 23cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY and MISS [ELIZABETH] DAVIS, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 19, 1829.

Spent a pleasant evening with Virgilia Broom, Miss [Charlotte] Haly and her brother, and Mr. [William] Wright. Promises to write in the albums and to send "my sonatas."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19cm. x 23cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY and [MISS ELIZABETH] DAVIS, Washington], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 21, 1829.

Describes a walk home in a blizzard after a delightful evening in Arch Street, where he played chess and admired lovely "Miss C." at the same time. Is sorry his sister could not meet her. Mentions Miss . . . Collins and Miss [Charlotte] Haly. Speculates on [President Jackson's] choice for Secretary of State. Is sorry his sister and cousin will miss the party at the British ministry.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Washington], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 24, 182[9].

Thinks Elizabeth [Ridgely] should write. Mentions a visit to Miss [Charlotte] Haly and a call from Bishop [Henry U.] Onderdonk. Describes Mr. Delarez [de] Chalmont, "an exquisite of the first water."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Washington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Feb. 28, 182[9].

[President-elect] Jackson's cabinet is being criticized. Rumors are afloat of duels between [Henry] Eaton and [Henry] Clay and between [John] Branch and [L. W.] Tazwell. Recalls the vivid impression Jackson made upon him some years ago. Is invited to a party where only French will be spoken though many guests know the language poorly if at all.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Washington], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], Mar. 5, 1829.

Describes a party at the home of Miss Charlotte [Haly], whom he much admires. Names the guests. Danced the cotillion despite his lameness, and played "Batchellor and Old Maid." One guest took him "for some unsophisticated child of the forest."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 23cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 21, 1829.

Regrets Father's [H. M. Ridgely] refusal of "the office which was proposed to him". Thinks Elizabeth [Ridgely] and their mother would have enjoyed living in Washington. Sympathizes with her boredom at Dover's dull parties which "lack accomplishment and I may even say the common courtesies of life." Dagsworthy Wells' father [William Hill Wells] recently died. Greatly admires Miss [Charlotte] Haly, whom he describes. Mentions other friends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Dover], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], Mar. 30, 1829.

Alludes to an unpleasant occurrence she has mentioned. Warns her to suspend judgement "in the case of this really unfortunate young lady". Reassures her about some reflection upon herself. Is glad she has been educated in the city. Will send mulberry trees as soon as possible. Returns a \$3.00 note since none under \$5.00 can be legally passed [in Pennsylvania]. Mentions Miss . . . Todhunter's bill.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY], Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Mar. 31, 1829.

Asks further instructions about the very small mulberry trees now available. [Addressed on cover to H. M. Ridgely].

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 23cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 9, 1829.

Spends much time with Miss [Charlotte] Haly, who is "more intelligent than any lady I meet with." Speaks of a party at Dr. [John Conrad] Otto's and another at Mr. . . . Todd's. Mentions Miss Janette Todd, Caroline Davis and her sister Julia [Davis], Cousin Betsy Denn and Susan Rodney.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April 20, 1829.

Many sources have reported "the late singular marriage of Mr. . . . France and Miss . . . Clayton". Reminds her how rapidly discreditable stories spread. Stresses the need for prudence. Regrets his own past indiscretions. At a party at Mr. [Dr. John] Otto's he was "almost suffocated by the different perfumes . . . [worn by] our exquisites both male and female." Spends much time with Miss [Charlotte] Haly. Mentions Julia and Caroline Davis and other acquaintances. Was delighted with his mother's letter.

[Attached is a note, Mrs. H. M. Ridgely from Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, April 20, 1829].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] PHILIPPA BARBOUR, Frescati, [Va.], April 26, 1829.

Acknowledges the plants the Ridgelys sent her mother. Hopes she and Elizabeth [Ridgely] may meet again. Wishes Mr. Ridgely would "supply the vacancy in the Senate" caused by Mr. [Louis] McLane's resignation.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 7, 1829.

Speaks unflatteringly of his former Dover companions, regretting his period of dissipation. Confides his hope of marrying Miss [Charlotte] Haly "if . . . I succeed in my present undertaking." Lists many of the guests at a party at the Wrights'. Susan Rodney is said to have "gone with Joseph [Rodney] to Buenos Ayres." Hopes she "may meet there with a good husband."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, July 7, 1829.

Met President Jackson's adopted son [Andrew Jackson, Jr.] aboard the steamboat en route to Salem, [New Jersey] where Charles and his party spent a rainy Fourth of July. Mentions Miss [Charlotte] Haly and other friends. His health is affected by "want of business" and a "horrid state of suspense." Alludes to Mrs. [Sarah] Clayton's recent death [apparently under unusual circumstances]. Promises to write Elizabeth an original poem. Refers to the deep affection between them.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Lebanon, Penna., Aug. 9, 1829.

Tells of the large, luxurious building where he has an academy with an enrollment of thirty, and the possibility of a hundred students. Though "pride . . . will think the step . . . a degrading one," prefers it to starving "in splendid poverty" waiting the fulfillment of promises. Will study law, and can save a little. Is still ambitious. Describes Lebanon, with its Great Union Canal, "vast forges," waterworks and a tunnel nearby. Likes the [Pennsylvania] Germans despite their lack of polish. Regrets the absence of "female society."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Lebanon, Penna., Aug. 12, 1829.

Wonders if anyone at home is thinking of him on his [twenty-fifth] birthday. Is busy, and happy to be responsibly employed. Asks to have certain engineering and mathematical treatises sent. He had refused his Aunt's suggestion to ask financial help from his father and did not know she had done so. Hopes to see Elizabeth in Philadelphia at Christmas.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] E[LIZABETH] W[RIGHT], "Pine Cottage," [near Burlington, N. J.], Sept. 1, [c. 1829].

Urges Elizabeth to adjust herself to life at home. Is distressed that she dislikes Dover. Describes the activities at "Pine Cottage," a pleasant resort where the Wright family is visiting. Mentions Mr. . . . Brown, Mr. J. Wilson, and Mr. . . . Fields, a well-connected young man whose cousin, Miss . . . Bayard, married a nephew of General [George] Washington.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH DAVIS, Philadelphia, Oct. 6, 1829.

Resents a report that she has announced her engagement to Mr. . . . Bennet and wishes it denied. Has also heard of her own engagement to a [U. S.] Senator whose identity she has never discovered. Describes her newly-decorated room, a yellow velvet hat with blue and white plumes, and a silk dress with fashionable fringe trimming. Cousin Charles [George Ridgely] has "got over his love for Charlotte [Haly]". William [Huffing-

ton] admires Elizabeth's pretty "little foot and arch." Mentions Nicholas Goldsboro and his unattractive friend Mr. . . . Smith, Mary Shiver, Vergilia Broom, Sarah Kid, Mr. [Delarez] de Chamont, Lucinda Hall, Georgina Slocum, Mr. . . . Fields and Mrs. [D.] Grelaud.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.5cm.

[MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Newark, [Del.], Dec. 13, 1829.

Acknowledges his sister's letter. "I should be very glad to study arithmetick if Uncle [Chancellor Nicholas Ridgely] was willing but I would not do it he being unwilling." Mentions some needed paper, Mr. . . . Wilson and his own family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20.3cm. x 25.7cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Lebanon, Penna., Dec. 18, 1829.

Has been to Harrisburg on business and to Governor [George] Wolf's inauguration. Is glad Elizabeth's interest in religion has been aroused, but regrets that she has joined the Methodists whose exhibitionism, lack of restraint and emphasis on fear he deplores. Begs her never to attend night meetings, and to allow her own judgement and good taste to guide her. "Religion abides in the heart. . . . and she worships God without form and without creed." Affirms his affection and his concern for her welfare and happiness.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

[MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Lebanon, [Penna.], Mar. 2, 1830.

Has been incapacitated by another attack of rheumatism following a cold caught on a sleigh ride. Inquires about his books.

A. L. S. 1 p. 18.4cm. x 23cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Newark, Del., Mar. 27, 1830.

Writes from school, telling of approaching examinations, the passage of more than "fifty flocks of wild pigeons" during the morning alone, and the purchase of trousers for everyday wear.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o MR. [JAMES] ROGERS, New Castle, Del., from [MISS] ELIZABETH DAVIS, Philadelphia, Aug. 25, [c. 1830].

Has been confined to bed from the effects of a mosquito bite. Alludes to the "delightful corvette party" both girls attended in New Castle, and to mutual acquaintances. Mentions Lucinda Hall.

A. L. U. 2 pp. 20.2cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., from L[UCINDA] H. HALL, Wilmington, Aug. 27, 1830.

Renews a previous invitation to visit in Wilmington. Mentions Susan Monro and her own cousins Eliza . . . and Harriett

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o JAMES ROGERS, New Castle, Del., from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, Sept. 3, 1830.

Encloses a check for \$5.00. Elizabeth is to return with Henry [Ridgely] if he is aboard the steamboat on Monday; otherwise she must wait until an acquaintance is coming down.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, c/o JAMES ROGERS, New Castle, Del., from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], Sept. 6, 1830.

Elizabeth is to return with Mr. . . . Wilds on Friday. Henry [Ridgely] is home.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 17.8cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from EUGENE E. ROGERS, New Castle, Del., Sept. 12, 1830.

Misses Elizabeth greatly. Mentions Mr. . . . Stevenson, "cousin Edward" . . . and "cousin Maria Kerr."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] ANN BOOTH, New C[astle, Del.], Sept. 27, 1830.

The garden and the Lovers' Seat at the window are lonely spots since Elizabeth went home. "Your Beaux I have not seen." Offers sympathy to "your Aunt in her affliction."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21cm. x 25cm.

EUGENE E. ROGERS, c/o JAMES ROGERS, New Castle, Del., from [MISS] ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, [c. Sept. 30, 1830].

Has been gravely ill since returning from New Castle and still has a painful cough. Enjoyed her visit with the Rogers family. Alludes to Eugene's grandmother, his brother William [Rogers], Maria Kerr, Messrs. . . . Stevensen and . . . Clay, and others incompletely identified. "Tell the 'King of Grease' I have not had so sweet a kiss as his since I have been in Dover."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from L[UCINDA] H. HALL, Wilmington, Nov. 29, 1830.

Hopes the books [Willard Hall] selected for Elizabeth's Sunday school were satisfactory. Urges her to spend the winter in Wilmington, rather than Philadelphia. Discusses religion, religious books, and a "solemn" church service. Refers to Mr. . . . Cooper, "Mr. J. N. C.", "absurd" rumors in Dover, and other mutual friends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZA . . . , [Little Creek, Del., c. Feb. 1831].

Sends her "subscription to Mr. [Robert] Piggot[t]", fearing bad roads will make it impossible to get to Dover again "this winter." Invites the Ridgely girls to visit her.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 15.8cm. x 10cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from L[UCINDA] H. HALL, Wilmington, Feb. 16, 1831.

Urges Elizabeth to visit Wilmington for her health. Mr. . . . Read also extends an invitation. An ox was recently "roasted on the Christiana creek" and "for the last week or two they have been sleighing to Newport on the creek." Joseph Rodney was killed instantly in a sleighing accident near Washington. Denies any engagement between herself and Mr. . . . Clayton. Mentions the destruction of Fort Delaware. Is sending some religious tracts.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], "Gymnasium", New Haven, Conn., Feb. 21, 1831.

Describes a French teacher, a good instructor "but in some things a great fool"; a servant of illustrious ancestry; and an eclipse [of the sun]. Punishments include bed in the daytime, standing at meals, and a bread and water diet. Enjoys Italian.

The Greek and Latin teacher was a classmate of William [R.] Morris. Speaks of Ann, Will[iamina], brother Nic[holas], "Master Ned" [Edward Ridgely] whose name he likes, and his own pet, "Rindo". Asks about the burning of Fort [Delaware].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o W. W. WRIGHT, Walnut St. between 9th and 10th, Phila[delphia], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] R[IDGELY, Dover], April 29, 1831.

Writes playfully and affectionately, at Ann's [Ridgely] request, to say she wants "a fancy hat", not a Dunstable bonnet like Rhoda Ann Biddle's. "I should like to see Ann parade in a bonnet such as *I* should select." Asks about the contents of a letter from Mr. . . . Ruth, one of Elizabeth's suitors. Mentions Bishop [Henry U.] Onderdonk.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

CHARLES G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Philadelphia, May 7, 1831.

Her health is much improved. Has ordered "a pink fancy hat with white flowers" for Ann [Ridgely]. Mentions Jacob Broom and his wife, father, and son James M. Broom III; Elizabeth and Helen [Davis]; and Edward. [Edward Ridgely on June 18, 1887, added a note recording the discovery of the letter in a garret of the family home in Dover.]

A. L. U. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, c/o W. W. WRIGHT, Walnut St. between 9th and 10th, Philadelphia, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, May 9, 1831.

Speaks of a successful operation on Mrs. . . . Brinckloe's son John. Moses Sipple was recently drowned. Expects to be confirmed the following day and to act as godfather to Edward [Ridgely]. Prayer meetings are poorly attended, though held jointly by [Episcopalians] and Methodists. Alludes to an estrangement from the Wright family; expresses his regard for and obligation to them.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

[MISS] ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Walnut St., [Philadelphia], from H[ARRIET] S. CAVERLY, [Philadelphia], May 24, [1831].

Invites Elizabeth to spend the next day with her. Mentions her aunt.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 18.7cm.

HARRIET [S. CAVERLY, Philadelphia], from [ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Philadelphia, post May 24, 1831].

Must decline the present invitation, but she hopes to see the Caverly family before leaving town.

A. Df. U., 1 p., 12.7cm. x 18.7cm. [On same sheet as entry above].

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, Walnut St., Philad[elphia], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Smyrna, Del.], June 15, 1831.

Names the speakers at the [P. E.] Convention. His own name has been presented to the Bishop as a candidate for Holy Orders. Thinks their cousin Helen [Davis] extremely attractive but regrets her lack of piety. A breach has occurred between James Clayton and his family and between him and "his Methodist brethren". Mentions Mr. . . . Ruth, Will[iamina] and Ned [Edward Ridgely], [Miss] Eliza Naudain and Mrs. . . . Fisher, sister of James Clayton.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from J[OHN] M. CLAYTON and COMMITTEE, Dover, June 21, 1831.

Notifies Ann Ridgely, Helen Davis, Mary E. Harrington, Elizabeth Bready, and Anna M[aria] R. Morris of their appointment to a committee to furnish music and decorations for the Court House [State House] for Independence Day.

A. N. S. 1 p. 21.7cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY], Philadelphia, [c. summer, 1831].

Spent a pleasant evening with Mr. . . . Clay promenading in the square. Mr. . . . Drake escorted cousin E[lizabeth Davis]. Mentions Dr. . . . Pain, James Bradey, Esq., Mr. [William] Huffington, Lucinda Hall, and Edward and Will[iamina Ridgely]. Alludes to Cousin Helen [Davis], visiting in Dover. Mother's dress is ready to be sent down.

A. L. U. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, from [MISS ANN RIDGELY], Dover, June 24, 1831.

Explains the plans for Elizabeth's return. Describes a party of fifty, large for Dover, which she and Helen [Davis] recently gave, and an entertaining Mr. . . . Latimer, one of the guests. Believes she and Elizabeth [Ridgely] will be allowed to join a party from Wilmington going to Cape May, [New Jersey]. Is pleased with an invitation to help decorate the State House

for the 4th of July. Anna Maria Morris' mother made her decline because she was the last named. Tells of other social activities.

A. L. [S. inferred], 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from EUGENE E. ROGERS, New Castle, Del., July 17, 1831.

Is disappointed at receiving no reply to his letter. Hopes Ann and Elizabeth [Ridgely] can soon visit New Castle.

A. [L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Esq., Smyrna, Del., from [MR.] W. W. WRIGHT, Philadelphia, July 20, 1831.

Is greatly pleased with the course Charles has chosen, encourages him to follow it resolutely, and is happy to have been able to assist him. Feels his services were only those due "a fellow mortal [and] a near relation of my family."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Dover], from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] R[IDGELY, Smyrna, Del.], July 30, 1831.

Asks his sister to invite Eliza . . . to Dover during his vacation. Confides his intention of making "an explicit declaration to her. . . . you may prepare her for it." Refers to Mr. [W. W.] Wright and to his own religious conversion. Will commence lay reading tomorrow. Speaks of [Rev.] Mr. [Robert] Piggott.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.4cm. x 19cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH DAVIS], Philadelphia, Sept. 2, [c. 1831].

Is grieved to hear "you have had another hemorrhage at the lungs." Refers to several of Elizabeth's admirers, Cordelia Wheeler's charming batchelor uncle from New Orleans, and mutual friends. Mentions Mr. F. . . ., who "gratified my pride but never filled my heart," a rejected suitor Mr. [Edward] G[illilan], Lucia Porter and Mary Shivers.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH [DAVIS, Philadelphia], Dec. 30, [c. 1831].

Is disappointed that "Father" [W. W. Wright] has been unable to bring her and her sister Helen [Davis] "down in our own carriage to spend a few day with you and Aunt Mary" [Hillyard]. The roads are now too bad to attempt the trip. Worries about Elizabeth's health.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, Baltimore, [Md.], April 23, [c. 1832].

"I am very well pleased with the College, teachers, and everything connected with it, except their religion." Describes the school routine, living quarters, botanical gardens and green house. Comments on his fellow-students and on Catholic ceremonies. Alludes to the fact brother C[harles George Ridgely] attended there. Mentions Mr. [Samuel] Eccleston, Mr. [John Mary Joseph] Chanche (Vice President of the College), and "Daddy Catts" Postmaster at Dover. "Give master Ned [Edward Ridgely] and 'Rindo' a kiss, each."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

[MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., May 18, [c. 1832].

Tells of the death of Mr. . . . Wheeler, a well-liked instructor at the college. Gives a brief account of his life. Refers to E[lizabeth Ridgely], brother C[harles George Ridgely], Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas Ridgely], Ned [Ridgely] and [his dog], "Rindo".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. EDWARD] G[ILLILAN], New York, [N. Y.], Sept. 29, 1832.

Her cousin [née Elizabeth Davis] describes a visit from "a certain [Henry] Clay man" who has not changed. Tells of [her husband] Mr. [Edward] Gillilan, her household tasks, a cholera epidemic, and the presence in New York of the celebrated English actress Fanny Kemble and an Italian opera company. Is concerned over Elizabeth's poor health.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Dover], from ELIZA [COWGILL, Little Creek, Del., ante 1833].

Cannot keep her appointment because she and Mary . . . are both ill. Asks Elizabeth to "make my apology to Evelina" Mentions "Brother Dan."

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 12.4cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Dover], from ELIZA [COWGILL, Little Creek, Del., ante 1833].

Is so busy during hog killing that she fears she cannot "attend the meeting".

A. N. S. 1 p. 10cm. x 10.5cm.

[MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover], from ELIZA [COWGILL, Little Creek, Del. ,ante 1833].

Fears sister Mary's . . . illness will prevent her attending Elizabeth's party.

A. N. S. 1 p. 10cm. x 11cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] A[NNA] M[ARIA] R. M[ORRIS, Dover, ante 1833].

Must postpone a visit to Eliza [Cowgill] because Mrs. Cowgill is ill. Wants her cousins to go for a short walk in the afternoon, leaving through the garden for fear "some one will join you".

A. N. S. 1 p. 17.8cm. x 10cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Dover, from MISS] A[NNA] M[ARIA] R. M[ORRIS, Dover, ante 1833].

"It took three quarters of a yard.—Mother is better today."

A. N. S. 1 p. 14.7cm. x 8.4cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] ANNA MARIA [MORRIS, Dover, ante 1833].

Sends her album for Elizabeth and Ann [Ridgely] to write in. Mentions Ann's "painting lesson" and novels she herself cannot get from the bookcase for her cousin until her parents return.

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 8.8cm.

MISSES [ELIZABETH and ANN] RIDGELY, #16 Liberty Square, Dover, from ANNA MARIA [MORRIS, Dover, ante 1833].

Invites her cousins to go to "Mrs. . . . Read's . . . with Eliza and me."

A. N. S. 1 p. 13cm. x 7.5cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MISS] A[NNA] M[ARIA] R. M[ORRIS, Dover, ante 1833].

Tells what she and Eliza . . . plan to wear [to Mrs. . . . Read's] and inquires what the Ridgely sisters have chosen.

A. N. S. 3 pp. 8.3cm. x 10cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [Dover], from MISS ANNA MARIA MORRIS, Dover, [ante 1833].

Invites her cousins to walk after tea. Has not seen them for a week.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 11.8cm. x 9.4cm.

[MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover], from [MISS] A[NNA] M[ARIA MORRIS, Dover, ante 1833].

Invites her cousins to walk after tea. Mentions her mother [Mary R. Morris] and "your Brother" [Charles George Ridgely].

A. N. S. 1 p. 9.9cm. x 6cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Philadelphia], from ELIZA L. BRADFORD, [Philadelphia, ante 1833].

Extends an invitation to dinner.

A. N. S. 1 p. 9.9cm. x 12.3cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, c/o MR. WRIGHT, [Philadelphia], from ELIZA L. BRADFORD, [Philadelphia, ante 1833].

Has had the cap "made up as fancifully as the quantity of lace would admit". Extends an invitation to spend the afternoon.

A. N. S. 1 p. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] E. NAUDAIN, [near Dover, ante 1833].

Will call for Elizabeth if she goes to "the Exhibition". Complains of mud and mentions a recent sleighing party.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.7cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Dover], from A. T. SIPPLE, [Dover, ante 1833].

Invites Elizabeth, with Ann and their parents, to join a party going to the Bay to take tea "on the grass under the trees." Mr. . . . Harris has "sent [his hack] to Wilmington with the mail," so it is not available.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 12cm. x 12.7cm.

[MISS] ELIZABETH [RIDGELY, Dover], from [LUCINDA H. HALL, Dover, ante 1833].

Invites Elizabeth to join her on a horseback ride "out to Cousin Thomas'." Mentions Cousin Mary Hillyard and refers to Elizabeth's poor health.

A. L. S. 1 p. 12.4cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, Dover, from L[UCINDA] H. HALL, [Wilmington, ante 1833].

Apologizes for leaving Dover "without bidding you farewell." Discusses religious topics.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MISS [ELIZABETH] RIDGELY, [n.p.], from [MR. . . . McCALLUM, n.p., ante 1833].

Formally accepts an invitation.

N. U. 1 p. 12.8cm. x 13cm.

MISS ELIZABETH RIDGELY, [Dover], from W[IL- LIAM] R. MORRIS, [Dover, c. Jan., 1833].

Lends his cousin a copy of *The Delaware Journal*, calling attention to J. K. Paulding's humorous article. Mentions Mr. . . . Higby, who "is to hold forth in the State House this morning," and Mr. [Charles] Marim with whom the legislators are to dine. Inquires about Elizabeth's health.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 32cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, [Balti]more, Md., Mar. 13, 1833.

Complains that a letter from Ann containing permission to come home for the Easter holidays was delayed ten days en route. Mr. [Samuel] Eccleston's consent is certain if he receives a request in Mr. Ridgely's own hand. Will need about \$10.00. His pleasure at the thought of the visit is tempered by recollection that he will never again see Elizabeth [Ridgely] whose death still seems unreal. Offers to bring anything he can carry from Baltimore. Chides Eugene [Ridgely] for failure to write. "Lent agrees with me a great deal better than I expected" for extreme fasting is for the priests, not the students as he supposed. Washington Irving and General . . . Stewart have just visited the school.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.3cm. x 25.8cm.

LOUISA . . . , [n.p.], from ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], Mar. 19, 1833.

Acknowledges a childhood playmate's condolence upon the death of Elizabeth [Ridgely]. Recalls her sister's beauty and charm, and the courage with which she faced her tedious illness.

A. Df. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, [Md.], April 28, 1833.

Teasingly "comforts" his sister for his absence, reminding her she is to visit his College during the summer. Writes enthusiastically of a pound-cake which he reserved "for private and personal use, while the sponge cake was *pro bono publico*." The Cathedral was robbed of valuable silver shortly after his return to Baltimore and a few days later \$9000.00 worth of

goods was stolen from a jeweler's shop on a busy street. Mentions the members of his own family and [Mrs. Mary B. Ridgely's housekeeper] "Miss Maria". Signs himself "Your Conqueror in chess."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Wilmington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, May 28, 1833.

Their mother is pleased that Ann is enjoying her visit in Wilmington and is willing for her to accept a certain invitation. Mentions Mr. B. Bradford, Mr. [William] Huffington, "poor Capt[ai]n . . . Macomb" and members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Wilmington, from [MRS. HENRY M. RIDGELY] and C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, June 3, 1833.

Mrs. Ridgely is grateful for the attention their Wilmington friends have shown Ann. Alludes to her own grief over Elizabeth's [Ridgely] death and to the difficulty she experiences in writing. Mentions "Mrs. [Ann] Wales and Kitty . . ." affectionately.

Charles George [Ridgely] takes over in the middle of a sentence, explaining that he has concluded their mother's letter "so that you may have perhaps the last lines which she may ever write." Tells, with exasperation, of the annoyance Miss Abigail Barber and Miss . . . Wells displayed when he, Mr. . . . Wales and Mr. . . . Layton became absorbed in a discussion of the "comparative merits of Canals, Rail Roads and McAdamized Turnpikes" instead of less "learned little-talk." Sometimes questions the intelligence of Dover girls. Alludes to a visit of little Leonard [Wales] in Dover. Their mother begs for more letters from Mrs. Wales, promising to "have them answered." She also appreciates the kindness Mrs. Wales and Miss . . . Reese have shown Ann. Mentions Aunt [Mary] Morris and Emily [Morris], Aunt [Mrs. John] Banning, Miss [Elizabeth] Black and the younger Ridgely children.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, c/o JAMES R. BLACK, New Castle, Del., from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, June 14, 1833.

Promises to share a "sweet and pleasant" secret with his sister when she returns. "Dover is at present most gloriously dull"; he and W[illiam] Huffington amuse themselves by "expatiating at length" on the beauties of the landscape during their evening walks. W[illiam] Morris is "most assiduous in his attentions to Miss E. Denny" and displays all the symptoms of "genuine novel-reading love". Thinks it possible "Huffing-

ton" and Sally Ann Stout look with favor on each other. Her fortune and family influence would be invaluable to his friend's professional career. Eugene [Ridgely] is still engrossed by his flock of chickens.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

20cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANN I. RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., June 19, 1833.

Acknowledges money sent him by Aunt [Mary B. Ridgely]. A shift in plans enabled him to spend it more pleasantly "than in eating & drinking all day." In a small chaperoned group he took a trip on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Ellicott's Mills, leaving at 9:30 A. M. and returning at 5:30 P. M. "The road is as handsome & pleasant a one as I have ever travelled and the village of Ellicott's Mills is a beautiful little place . . . fifteen miles distant from Baltimore." Describes the lovely wooded country along the route. The hotel is attractive and large, with a dining room that will accommodate two hundred guests and a "romantic" terraced garden rising above the railroad. The village has several mills utilizing the water power. In summer it is also "a very fashionable resort." "General [President Andrew] Jackson passed through town a week ago." Was one of the ten students selected to meet him and present the compliments of the College. Witnessed the President's interview with Black Hawk and his Indian delegation. Was disappointed in Black Hawk, who was small, unimpressive except for a fine forehead, and reminded him of some elderly Negro rather than "the second Indian warrior of North America." His son was large, active and "the finest looking man I ever saw." "The Prophet," spokesman for the Indians, was huge. His speech, contrary to reports in the papers, was consecutive, animated and impressive. Black Hawk said nothing but "would breathe out an 'ugh' occasionally." Is hurt that Ann [Ridgely] is visiting familiar Sussex County but shows no interest in seeing Baltimore which is new to her. Mentions Miss A. Cummings' marriage and the members of the Ridgely family.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, New Castle, Del., from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, June 26, [c. 1833].

Refers to an originally enclosed recipe for Brunswick Jelly Cake. Facetiously lists twelve "important" events at home, among them that the entry has been painted pea green, Eugene's [Ridgely] bantam hen has died of old age and that raspberries and ice cream were served to a tea guest. Mentions Dr. and Mrs. . . . Hardy, Miss . . . Rus, . . . Harrington, Miss . . . Denny, William and Anna Maria [Morris], Sorden Burton, Henry Lockwood and others incompletely identified.

A. L. S. [fragment]

3 pp.

20cm. x 19.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from HENRY RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., July 10, 1833.

Insists that Ann come to "the exhibition" at the College. "The opposition steamboats have commenced running between Baltimore & Philadelphia", providing cheaper and better service. The "Peoples' Line", routed via the [Delaware and Chesapeake] Canal, "is far superior to the other" in the size, speed and "elegance" of its boats. Believes it possible to reach Baltimore from Dover "in *one* day." The fare is \$3.00, a drop of \$1.00 within a few weeks. Hopes to see Ann, his parents and Aunt [Mary B. Ridgely]. Alludes to his poundcake, his tulips, flower seed sent for his mother and aunt, and "the chickens, dog and the thousand cats that infest the house." Sends affectionate messages to each of the family and to [Mammy] Margaret. Mentions Miss . . . Wilson, Miss . . . Pennington, and [servants] "Creasy", "Jo" and "Wesley." Describes the huge bed-bugs that "inhabit my cell" at St. Mary's College.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's [College], Baltimore, Md., Sept. 17, 1833.

Discourses on a lottery in which he won forty cents at the cost of only a dollar! Has been homesick since his return. Has skipped a year in French. In addition is taking Latin, Algebra, Geometry and beginners' Spanish, having completed the requirement in English and deferred his final year of Greek. Mentions Brother C[harles George Ridgely] who has not arrived in Baltimore, instructors Mr. [Samuel] Eccleston and Mr. [John M. J.] Chanche, schoolmates [Peter] Bauduy, . . . Potter, Louis McLane, son of the Secretary [of State, Louis McLane] and . . . Drayton, whose father [William Drayton] is "head of the Anti-Nullifiers", and Nic Goldsborough, Miss . . . Hardcastle and Bill Cooper.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, [Baltimore, Md.], Oct. 10, 1833.

Comments flippantly on an incredible report from Dover relating to "the Frigidator" [probably "Miss Maria"] and "the Major". Bishop [John B. M.] David, of Kentucky, a former President of the College, is visiting. Describes Mr. . . . Durant's balloon ascent which will soon be repeated. Is glad Ann [Ridgely] is still studying French. At College the younger boys are now separated from the older and required to speak only French, while the older youths, mostly newly-arrived Spaniards, may speak only English. [Peter] Bauduy's father recently died in Cuba.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Baltimore, [Md.], Nov. 11, 1833.

Reproves his sister [in French and English] for failing to write. [Mr.] . . . Wheeler, the lecturer who talked on Astronomy in Dover last summer, is now very popular in Baltimore. Admission is \$1.00 instead of the \$.25 charged at Dover. Dr. [John] England, Bishop of Charleston, [S. C.], is the leading personality of the convention of Catholic bishops of the United States now meeting in Baltimore. Quotes from a sermon on Purgatory he recently delivered. Mr. [Samuel] Eccleston has forbidden a student debating society because its purpose is met by a class in elocution, and because such groups encourage "vanity" that can ruin an able young orator. Hopes Ann and their father will visit him on their way to Washington and will permit him to join them for the trip to the capital.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [HENRY RIDGELY], St. Mary's College, [Baltimore, Md.], Jan. 5, 1934.

Has finished [Washington] Irving's *Knickerbocker's New York* and "the history of Scotland". Sympathizes with Eugene's [Ridgely] grief at the theft of his beloved bantams. Warns him to curb his "extravagant love for chickens." Passed a dull Christmas after rising at 3:30 to hear "two dry masses." Apologizes to Nick [Nicholas Ridgely] whose letter he intended to praise, not criticize. His own early letters were both composed and corrected by Mrs. . . . Martin. The students are excited over rumors of an impending declaration of war against France. Mentions a cocoanut as a special delicacy.

A. L. [S. torn off] 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] HORTENSIA L. HALL, Smyrna, [Del.], Feb. 23, [year illegible, c. 1834].

Is enduring a dull visit to Smyrna "the jumping off place of this miserable world." Alludes to a recent enjoyable weekend, to a mile-long walk home in a storm, to her hostess Sally Ann . . . , and to various mutual friends.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, [Baltimore, Md.], April, 1834.

Has mumps lightly with little discomfort. Hopes he can still go to Washington with the family. Mr. [Samuel] Eccleston has been appointed Assistant Bishop of Baltimore. This may advance Mr. [John M. J.] Chanche and the popular Rev. Mr. . . . Hoskyns, a schoolmate of Charles [George Ridgely], in the College administration. An eccentric Baltimore carpenter,

Mr. . . . Mills, has designed, made and skillfully flown a balloon in the year since he first saw one. Has new pantaloons. Was robbed of \$5.00 while in the Infirmary. No longer subscribes to the newspaper.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from HENRY RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., May 3, 1834.

Is eager for the trip to Washington, particularly to hear "the speaking". Congressmen [Taylor] Webster, [George] McDuffie and [William C.] Preston have all appeared in Baltimore where Preston drew the best crowd. "Party-spirit runs high here". The Jackson party is referred to as "Tory," the Opposition as "Whig". Tells of a recent murder and a suicide. Hopes Eugene's [Ridgely] case of mumps will not delay the Washington visit.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., June 10, 1834.

Discusses the racehorses "Trifle", "Shark", "Anvil", "Eclipse" and "Sir Henry", and a race he and Ann witnessed in Baltimore. Tells of the rebellion at school, when a student was expelled after resisting severe discipline for a comment supporting the general student refusal to attend church immediately after a ten-mile march into the country. An attack on some of the instructors, bedlam in the dormitories, and the return of money previously collected to purchase a gift for the departing Mr. [Samuel] Eccleston were among the evidences of anger at this treatment of "Iturbide, of Mexico" who had been enrolled for nine years. The president lost all his great popularity instantly. Lists G. W. Biddle of Philadelphia, W. J. Baker of North Carolina, W. Thomas and D. W. Carroll of Maryland and [Peter] Bauduy, of Delaware, as fellow students. Supposes the frequent balloon ascensions will remain popular in Baltimore until someone breaks his neck.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, c/o JAMES R. BLACK, New Castle, Del., from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Dover, June 16, 1834.

Has been extremely busy at "the office" but otherwise "Dover is alarmingly dull, stupid and monotonous." James Palmer and Miss . . . Kimmey have been married, Miss . . . Reese is ill with inflammatory rheumatism, and there is to be "a large Bay party, but quite élite" which he must decline attending. The town is wrapped in its own trivial concerns, ob-

livious to the world, while its neighborhood goes slowly to ruin. Three delapidated bridges form links of the roads out of Dover in three directions. Hopes Elizabeth Black returns with Ann. Will try to organize some suitable entertainment for them.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, c/o JOHN WALES, Wilmington, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, [Dover], July 4, 1834.

Explains the plans for Ann's return to, and Miss . . . Rees' departure from, Dover. Their mother is grateful for Mrs. [Ann] Wales' kindness to Ann, whose needle he himself misses greatly. Complains of the heat.

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., Oct. 3, 1834.

Recounts a trip from Dover from the time the old clock struck farewell at the hall door and his little brother Ned [Ridgely] ran ahead of him to the Stage at Biddle's [Tavern], until he reached school. From Dover to Smyrna "all the vacant seats were filled with musquitoes;" from Smyrna to St. Georges an armed passenger, "half seas over" bragged of his prowess, and at St. Georges the connecting stage was too full to take them to the steamboat landing. ". . . Read, the tavern-keeper" drove them to the *Kentucky*. Had an excellent dinner and pleasant passage to Baltimore, poor supper but nice room at Barnum's [hotel], and continued to College after breakfast. Discusses the changes in the College administration. Mr. [Samuel] Eccleston, now Bishop, still teaches. Is studying moral philosophy, geometry, trigonometry, advanced Greek, advanced French, elocution and elementary Spanish. Has completed Latin and rhetoric. Sends George Fisher's mother an excellent report of his standing. Hopes this fellow Delawarean may win the prizes in advanced English as he himself did two years ago. Has recovered from a touch of malaria.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZ[ABETH] BLACK, New Castle, Del., c. 1835].

Writes of the Ridgelys, and of her own family, who are in Philadelphia. Sends "some oranges from Santa Cruz", the gift of "poor John Couper." Mentions other friends. There has been an attempt to rob the [Farmers] bank. Her little sister Jane [Black] is a lively charge during their parents' absence.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.8cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., Jan. 29, 1835.

Sends "Willy" [Ridgely] a "Comic Almanac" in acknowledgement of her letter. Could not gain admission to the exhibition by the blind students in Wilmington, so went to the theatre. The performance of Homes' *Tragedy of Douglas*, the comedy of *Charles the Second* and "the amusing piece of *Zip Coon*" was surprisingly good, with Mr. [John] and Mrs. [Mary] Barnes and Miss Charlotte Barnes in the casts. Describes his instructor Mr. . . . Deluol, and the latter's pet cat that reminds him of their mother's. Tells of a Christmas dinner at which certain students had "rare sport", several became intoxicated, and from which all were brought home by Mr. [John] Chanche himself. All lost town privileges for three "town days".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., Feb. 22, 1835.

After reading of the blind students' exhibition [in Wilmington] regrets even more having missed it. Is amazed they can learn to read rapidly enough for enjoyment. Hopes the Legislature will make an appropriation for the work. An eyewitness report says that [Thomas H.] Benton killed [John C.] Calhoun in a duel. Sends *The Man of Feeling* and *Vicar of Wakefield*, recently "published in newspaper form", as a gift for Nic[holas Ridgely] and speaks of comic almanacs for the children. Will send Brother Charles [George Ridgely] directions for using strong vinegar as a remedy for tetter.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., April 2, 1835.

Teases Ann and Nicholas [Ridgely] about their constant claims of being "busy". Describes, in much detail, a small, fat, rather unattractive little Chinese lady exhibited at the Museum. Found the youth who accompanied her more interesting.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., April 30, 1835.

Asks, facetiously, for further detail on "the Stage which you 'are afraid daddy Catts will not mail.' I have heard much of the abuse of the privilege of franking . . . but I must confess I never heard of mailing a stage before." Describes planned alterations to the College buildings. The Franklin Library, "a beautiful little weekly reprint" has published *Last Days of*

Pompeii, *Jacob Faithful* and other works in convenient form. Mr. . . . Deluol uses the offspring of his cat "Joe" as specimens for scientific experiment. Refers to Eugene's [and Ann's] great fondness for animals.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 24.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., June 4, 1835.

Describes Mrs. . . . Scotti unkindly. The editor of *The Gazette*, Baltimore's leading newspaper, has been apprehended stealing from the mails. Asks his father's permission to buy an excellent, inexpensive and very complete French biographical dictionary. Reproaches Ann for dropping French. Though summer has brought a profusion of strawberries, green peas and roses, has had an opportunity to enjoy only the roses.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from HENRY RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., July 8, 1835.

Tells of preparing for his Greek examination, reviewing his memorized "five hundred lines of Voltaire's *Henriade* in French and the fables of Triarte in Spanish". Will start home next week. Has found it impossible to learn to ignore the heat as he has the bedbugs. In one of the "usual number" of Fourth of July accidents a young son of Judge . . . Magruder was blown to bits aboard a cutter. His companion has gone insane. Papers are in mourning for the death of the Chief Justice [John C. Marshall]. Refers to his own family and "Miss Maria . . .", the building operations under way at the College, "Pigeon Hill", the coming "exhibition" at school, and an example of a fantastically distorted rumor.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., Oct., 1835.

Comments at length on C[harles George Ridgely]'s marriage, which he thinks characteristically rash and indiscriminating, but which may force this brother to real application. Is on a committee to manage a reading room at College. Will "take *The London Quarterly*, *Blackwoods* and *Frazier's Magazines* and in fine all the English and American magazines." Needs \$7.00 for the volumes of *Republic of Letters* newly published. Will board in a private family for the last nine months of his course.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., Nov. 5, 1835.

Remarks upon his sister's penmanship, the infrequency of letters from home, . . . Houston, Miss [Elizabeth] Black, Miss . . . Bayard, his own family, the sister of a South American schoolmate "whose name is Dellacosta," and the subscription price of *The Republic of Letters*.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Baltimore, Md., Dec. 8, 1835.

Complains bitterly of being neglected by the entire family. Implores a prompt answer to an important letter to his father. Thinks "press of company, bad fires and smoking rooms" no real excuse. Refers to the President's [Andrew Jackson] address, "the newly-married folks" [Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Ridgely], . . . Houston, Mrs. . . . Jester and her infant, the Ridgely children and "the f[rigi]da . . . tor." Wonders if "a Comic Almanac" would be a suitable gift for "Willy" [Ridgely]. The new reading room has "more than a dozen" newspapers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from HENRY RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., [Dec. 24], 1835.

In this Christmas Eve letter to Ann and Nicholas [Ridgely] Henry recalls incidents of last year when he was arriving home at the hour he is now writing. Comments on the happy, jostling crowds, mostly women, on the streets. Wishes "Ned" and "Willy" [Ridgely] could see the "confectionaries & toy-shops" with their displays of dolls, "'pretty things'" and "almost Olympic piles of your favorite cocoa-nut cake, Ann." Declined an invitation to dine with the Governor's nephew at Annapolis. Alludes to "silk-cotton stockings" and to the great number of turkeys that will be eaten during the day. Mentions Ben Bradford and Elizabeth Black.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from HENRY RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., Jan. 6, 1836.

Excoriates "that pitiful coward . . . Clayton" who submitted tamely to public disgrace but later "destroyed a young man" who had befriended him [possibly . . . Adams]. Assures his sister that his landlady's daughter is "on the wrong side of thirty", unattractive, and that he will not marry for many years. Remarks lightly that he will then select a bride in her teens, beautiful and wealthy. Inquires about the marriage of

his brother [Charles George Ridgely] to "a widow, poor, & once a bar-maid". Implies that the couple are now living with the Ridgely family. Two Negroes are lustily singing "Clare de Kitchen" so noisily he cannot think.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [HENRY RIDGELY], Baltimore, Md., Jan. 26, 1836.

Teases his sister about items in a recent letter, feigning jealousy of her extensive correspondence with Elizabeth Black. Has finished a six-weeks course in the mathematics and theory of astronomy with work in the observatory to follow. "We are hurrying through the sciences like racehorses", with acoustics, hydrostatics and astronomy completed and optics, chemistry, mechanics and electricity in prospect. Criticizes the College's policy of holding students back "like children" until their last year, leaving insufficient time for important subjects. Lectures on Natural History, comprising "Botany, Geology, etc." have been added to their course. Plans to continue in mathematics beyond the required conic sections to fluxions. Asks for suggestions for a topic for his commencement address. Mentions . . . Houston and the Bradfords. "J. Q. Adams has had the good sense to think of becoming a Van Buren man."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Baltimore, Md., April 18, 1836.

Expatiates upon his distaste for sassafras tea. Guesses at the occupation of each member of the family gathered before "one of your roasting Dover fires" now, at nine in the evening. Discusses finances. Will require two pairs of shoes, summer clothing, and "a black dress suit for commencement." History and botany have been added to his schedule. Refers to his other studies, a terrapin supper that left him feeling "unwell and sleepy", and to the Black family, Major . . . Young and . . . Houston.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Baltimore, Md., May 5, 1836.

Impishly tries to convince Ann [Ridgely] it is her duty, but not his, to write regularly. Asks about sulphur as a substitute for sassafras tea. Finds the latter more palatable served from a teapot. Mr. [John] Chanche has approved his [Commencement] speech. Insists that Ann [Ridgely] and their mother must attend the service on July 19th. Has also asked Miss Elizabeth Black. "Although there are a good many ragamuffins in College, I shall not be ashamed of my classmates."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Baltimore, Md., June 14, 1836.

Is listening with pleasure to the music master, Pat Kelly, playing "*Home, Sweet Home* . . ., my favorite song, stale and common though it may be" and *Bonnie Doon*. Fondly dreams of himself able to retrieve the reputation of "the unmusical Ridgelys". Is sorry their father cannot come to Commencement but insists that Nic[holas Ridgely] will provide sufficient escort for Ann, Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas] Ridgely and perhaps their mother. Gives much detail about the coming public examinations and demonstrations. Lists his class-mates, with the subjects of their addresses. His own is entitled *The Influence of the United States*. Hears ". . . Clark and [Martin W.] Bates are on the Jackson ticket."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Baltimore, Md., July 4, 1836.

Will attempt, for the first time in his life, to sit through a Fourth of July oration in preparation for his own coming ordeal, but will escort no ladies "stuffed & padded as they are even in summer." Has prepared his speech and his examinations for Commencement. Still hopes some of the family will come. His bills include board, \$70.00; tuition for nine months, \$60.00; tailor, about \$70.00; and his A. B. degree, \$10.00. Will ship his belongings to Philadelphia to be transferred there to "a Dover sloop". Mentions [Henry] Lockwood who is to be an instructor at West Point, and W[illiam] Morris, who was recently in Baltimore.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Nov. 14, 1836.

Nic's [Nicholas Ridgely] election news has disappointed "all the hopes I had formed in relation to the success of Van Burenism." Saw Elizabeth and Sarah Black, Miss . . . Marr and Mrs. [Elizabeth] Lowber. Asks if his father still wants Ewell's *Medical Companion*. Thinks the newer students are "pretty well picked" at auctions of medical books. Refers to talkative Mrs. . . . Bradford, Ben [Bradford] and the latter's grandfather. W[illiam] Morris is in town. Has received special courtesies from Dr. [William] Gibson as a relative of Dr. [William] Morris. Also discusses the other faculty members, Dr. [Nathaniel] Chapman, [William B.] Horner and [George B.] Wood, the latter a successor to "the celebrated Dr. [John Redman] Coxe who was driven away by the students urged on by the professors."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, c/o COL. J. C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Phila[delphia], Jan. 8, 1837.

Has moved from Mrs. [Thomas] Davy's to a more satisfactory boarding place near the College. Has seen Ellen Tree, a splendid actress though not very pretty. Met N. P. Willis, whose writing he admires, but was disappointed to find him "a vulgar looking fop". The family is disturbed at Ann's [Ridgely] long absence. Thinks their mother is very lonely. Recalls the wedding of Elizabeth Black to Mr. [J. C.] Groome with pleasure. Likes hot buckwheat cakes. Wonders if the Mrs. Elizabeth M. Wright, widow of W. W. Wright, who recently died at New Orleans, can be their aunt. Looks forward to seeing two amputations.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS.] M[ARY] R. M[ORRIS, Dover], Jan. 15, 1837.

Offers her niece sympathy following the sudden death of her mother [Mrs. Henry M. Ridgely].

A. N. S. 1 p. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. MARY B. COUPER, New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 15, 1837.

Expresses deep sympathy with Ann's grief over her mother's unexpected death. Mentions [her own] parents, husband, and Sarah [Black].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MISS MARY DAVY, Philadelphia, Jan. 17, 1837.

Was shocked by the news of Mrs. [Henry M.] Ridgely's death. Mrs. [Elizabeth] Lowber was almost overcome with grief. Offers any assistance she can render, and sympathy to the entire family. Henry [Ridgely] has "not yet left for home." Mentions Dr. . . . Emerson and Mr. . . . Gilpin.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. A[NN] WALES, Wilmington, Jan. 17, 1837.

Is deeply grieved by Mrs. Ridgely's sudden death. Had believed her reported illness was only distress over the recent death of her sister, Mrs. [W. W.] Wright. Refers to the presence of Henry [Ridgely] in Philadelphia, to "cousin Kitty", and to Mrs. [Peter] Caverly. Implies that Mrs. Ridgely's vision had been failing. Mentions Mr. . . . Gilpin and Mr. . . . Williamson, and extends sympathy to the entire Ridgely family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 16.7cm. x 21cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] RIDGELY, Philadelphia, Jan. 19, 1837.

Was shocked by the suddenness of their mother's death, though her health had long been frail. Refers to her worry over her sister's [Mrs. W. W. Wright] orphans, to her unselfishness, her love of flowers, and her thoughtfulness. Has just heard of the death of the Vice-President of St. Mary's [College, Mr. Hoskyns] who contracted smallpox during a clerical visit to the Hospital. He was "the most popular of all the professors". The alumni plan a memorial to him.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH S. BLACK, New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 20, 1837.

Offers condolence on the death of Mrs. Ridgely. Mentions her own parents, brother[in-law] and sister, Elizabeth [Groome] now at Annapolis, and Charles [George] Ridgely.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from E[LIZABETH, MRS. DANIEL LOWBER], Philadelphia, [Jan.] 20, 1837.

Expresses sympathy to the family and her personal sorrow at the death of her cousin Mrs. [Henry M.] Ridgely, her "last female relation associated with childish years." Refers to her husband and his brother. Warns Ann that excessive crying may permanently injure her eyes. Recently passed her sixtieth birthday.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, [JR.], New Castle, [Del.], Jan. 21, 1837.

Offers Ann further consolation following her mother's death. Urges a reconciliation with Charles [George Ridgely]. The bombazine purchased for her in Wilmington is being made up. Inquires about a matching bonnet.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philad[elphi]a, Feb. 1, 1837.

Complains of Dr. [Samuel] Jackson's irregularity in meeting his classes. Fortunately for the University [of Pennsylvania] Dr. [William B.] Horner escaped drowning when he and his daughter failed in an attempt to cross the Delaware [River] on the ice. Wishes to be placed as an apprentice in Dr. [Jacob] Randolph's office to obtain practical surgical experience. Also wants to attend "the summer course of lectures" given by Drs. [Nathaniel] Chapman, Horner, [Hugh L.] Hodge, Jackson, John

Bell, [John K.] Mitchell and . . . Harris. Examined a medical library made up largely "of books formerly belonging to grandfather [Charles Greenberry Ridgely] and Uncle Abraham" [Ridgely], apparently put up for sale by Dr. J. S. Naudain. Discusses certain bills and errands, including shaving soap for Nic[holas Ridgely]. Was amused to find the soap label read "for the shaving box as well as the nursery" but did not deliberately buy it to tease his brother.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Feb. 22, 1837.

Sends the seeds ordered, one of . . . Landreth's catalogues with useful planting instructions, "a paper of Sioux corn" as a novelty for Eugene [Ridgely], and other items, all in care of his fellow-student Mr. . . . Whiteley. Tells of the presentation to the University of a portrait of Dr. [Philip Syng] Physick, by [Henry] "Inman of New York" and given by "the medical class." Warns that Mr. [Thomas S.] Hillyard should be alert to possible "future dangers" from a head injury he sustained.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

N[ICHOLAS] RIDGELY, Dover, from DANIEL M. BATES, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., Feb. 28, 1837.

Sympathizes with Nicholas and all the family following the death of their mother [Mrs. Henry M. Ridgely]. Describes the 51st anniversary of the Belles Lettres Society at Dickinson College. H. Sharpe of Smyrna was among the orators. Asks if "the seat of Justice" has been moved from N[ew Ca]stle to Wilmington, and what the legislature has done. The grammar school at Carlisle, recently burned, will be replaced. Refers to Eugene and Ann [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from M[ARGARET] DOUGLASS, [Dover, c. Mar. 22, 1837].

Since only close relatives will be present, has decided to ask Ann to be a bridal attendant "a week from tomorrow." Will expect her neither to attend any parties or "to change your dress" [mourning for her mother]. Sally Ann and William Comegys and Mr. . . . Wootten will be other attendants.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from MARGARET DOUGLASS, [Dover, post Mar. 22, 1837].

Begs Ann to reconsider her refusal. Has no other Dover friend intimate enough to fill her place, and is certain she will not "feel so badly" in company as she now fears.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 9.8cm. x 13.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philad[elphi]a, May 1, 1837.

Alludes to bamboo "Yankee blinds", elsewhere called "Yankee chip" in contrast to "the genuine East India blind", and to difficulties encountered in a [news]paper office. Advises Nic[holas Ridgely] to master each step in French. Offers him the use of Boyer's and Dufief's dictionaries and of the "many French books in my library." Dr. [Jacob] Randolph's fee [for studying in his office] is \$100.00. The physician had instructed him to "acquaint" himself with Physiology and has now examined him without warning. Plans to change boarding places to avoid the crying of a teething baby. Mentions Mrs. [Thomas] Davy and Miss Mary [Davy].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, June 3, [1837].

Teases the "poor devils in the country" with the thought of "one of Jackson's supurb ice-creams & a cold glass of lemonade" which he is enjoying. Defends the proposition that a fine dish of strawberries has more charm any any woman. Ben Bradford wants to board with him while preparing for his trip to the West. Mentions Mrs. . . . Raybold, the future Mrs. . . . Cummings, Miss Sarah [Black] and Miss Lucinda [Hall]. Refers to sweet-oil and to summer drawers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philad[elphi]a, July 11, 1837.

Bought 21½ yards of 28-inch horsechair for reupholstering a sofa at \$1.75 per yard. Ben Bradford, described in uncomplimentary terms, leaves tomorrow for the West. Mary Banning is pretty but "such a fool." Also refers to William and Elizabeth [Banning], Mrs. [Elizabeth] Lowber, Mrs. [Thomas] Davy, Rebecca Barton, apparently a milliner, Mrs. . . . Robinson and Frank [Robinson]. Thinks Mrs. . . . Pennewill is improving.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Phil[adelphia], July 18, 1837.

Describes the launching of a large naval vessel [U. S. S. *Pennsylvania*]. Both banks of the Delaware were black with spectators; every available ship from frigates to tiny two-man craft was on the river gay with flags and noisy with cheers, bands, bells or cannon. Watched the spectacle from the *Ohio*. Hopes to be home shortly, possibly bringing a friend from Virginia. Asks suggestions for a present for [Mammy] Margaret, whom he has never before given any gift except small sums of money. Plans a trip to Burlington, N[ew] J[ersey].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Sept. 16, 1837.

Is pleased with an armchair with "a figured hair-cover and spring seat" he bought at auction for \$12.50. Has shipped it. Complains of women's habit of running up prices at auctions. Asks further directions about ordering "the tombs." Prices range from \$40.00 to \$60.00 for the unclouded white marble their father [H. M. Ridgely] stipulates. Refers to purchases of raisins, sugar, wine and tumblers.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Sept. 27-28, 1837.

The tombstone for their mother's grave is ready, and very satisfactory. It cost \$51.79. Hopes Mrs. [Augustus] Schee will like the one he chose for her. Discusses various types and grades of marble. Asks about purchases shipped to Dover, and whether "Miss Maria . . . [got] her sulphuric ether."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANNE RIDGELY, Dover, from LIZZIE [MRS. JOHN C. GROOME, New Castle, Del., Oct., 1837].

Acknowledges a letter of condolence upon the death of her little sister Jane [Black], whose distressing final illness she describes. Begs Ann [Ridgely] to visit the family, for her presence will be a comfort. Writes on a Sunday for the first time in her life.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philad[elphi]a, Oct. 16, 1837.

Is gratified that the tombstones pleased the two families. "They were made by [William] Struthers, who executed the beautiful sarcophagus for Washington, a most finished piece of workmanship which half our citizens have visited his yard to see." Refers to social engagements involving W[illia]m Morris, now living in Philadelphia, and "the ladies"; Dr. [William] Gibson; Dr. [Jacob] Randolph; [Peter] Bauduy, who has just been married; and Col. [William] Drayton. In response to his father's inquiry about bacon says he supposes he means hams, which range in price from \$.17 or \$.18 per pound for the desirable Jersey and Virginia types to \$.14 for "western" and \$.12½ for the "most inferior". All prices have risen sharply.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Phil[adelphia], Nov. 27, [c. 1837].

Gives a detailed description of Mrs. [H. P.] McCallam, the bride of "our rungagate parson" whom he just met on the street. Enjoyed his recent trip to escort Miss [Lucinda] Hall to Wilmington, though he dreaded it in anticipation. Admires the surgical skill of his instructor, Dr. [Jacob] Randolph.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philad[elphia], Dec. 15, 1837.

Describes, in amused exasperation, the demands Lucinda Hall made upon his time while she was in the city, and her efforts to make him fall in love was "a pretty school-girl in Front-street." Medical classes have been suspended until after the funeral of Dr. [Philip Syng] Physick, who died "early this morning." Is one of a committee of five students appointed "to wait on Dr. [Nathaniel] Chapman, requesting him to deliver an eulogium to his memory." Mentions Miss Sally Ann Stout, Mr. and Mrs. [H. P.] McCollam and W[illia]m Freeman, of whose deafness he failed to warn Miss Hall when placing her under his protection for the trip home. Discusses books, candles and a carpet-chair to be bought.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 23.5cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK, New Castle, Del., c. 1838].

Describes her infant nephew James G[roome]. Hopes Ann will soon pay a visit. W. M. Stokes has returned. An untrue rumor about her arose from a mere flirtation. Quotes much

verse, of which she is "extravagantly fond." Mentions Sophy Potts, the Reads, and her own family. Tells of an approaching marriage.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [COL. S. HOLLINGSWORTH and COMMITTEE], Elkton, Md., Feb. 5, 1838.

A formal invitation to attend "The Managers' Ball" at William Kinkead's Hotel, Elkton, on February 15th.

N. U. 1 p. 12.6cm. x 19.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from LIZZIE [MRS. JOHN C. GROOME, Elkton, Md.], Mar. 6, 1838.

Complains of the combined discomforts of pregnancy, cutting a wisdom tooth, and an arm still crippled with pain from being bled a week previous. Gives news of Mary McLane, Miss Olivia Alexander, a young couple whose mutual extravagance is causing comment, "young Miss . . . Wallace", Miss . . . Miller, "H. A. H." whose choice of a husband has "dumbfounded" the community [apparently New Castle, Delaware], Mr. . . . Aitkins, and the members of her own family. Does not like Mr. [William] Huffington's "pamphlet" [*Delaware Register* . . .]. Begs Ann to visit her.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, Mar. 24 [c. 1838].

Has completed all examinations except one which he does not fear. Knows he acquitted himself well before all professors but Dr. [Samuel] Jackson, and adequately before him. Mentions Drs. [George B.] Wood, [William E.] Horner, [William] Gibson and [Hugh L.] Hodge. A brief examination usually indicates a successful one. Expects to be in Dover soon, after final results are announced. Met "Patty Larkspur, alias Lucinda Hall."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from DANIEL M. BATES, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penna., April 8, 1838.

Tells of a partial reconciliation with a young lady of whom he is fond. Asks about Nicholas' disagreement with Mary

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., June 14, [c. 1838].

Recalls incidents of her recent visit in Dover. Mentions "The Delaware Register" [William Huffington], "the little dapper Delaware doctor", Mr. and Mrs. [John C.] Groome, members of the Ridgely family, the McLane family, particularly A[llen], Dr. . . . Hamilton, [midshipman] Poindexter, Anna Booth, Mr. . . . Houston and Judge [Willard] Hall's family. Implies that she expects an engagement between [Lucinda Hall and Henry Ridgely] to be announced momentarily.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, c/o JUDGE BLACK, New Castle, Del., from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Philadelphia, June 26, [c. 1838].

Is to accompany Ann [Ridgely] home from New Castle. On the boat to Philadelphia, he talked with survivors of the *Pulaski* lately rescued after four days exposure, who told tales of their near-starvation while he himself consumed a dinner of "chicken, roast beef, peas, beans, potatoes, and other articles too numerous to mention." Mentions Nic[holas] and "Ned" [Ridgely], Sarah [Black], and a "wee damsel" unnamed.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, c/o J. C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., from SARAH [BLACK, New Castle, Del.], July 7, [c. 1838].

Tells of a "desperate flirtation" with an attractive widower some sixteen years her senior. Thought she had flirted with "the Absentee" [. . . Poindexter] but "I knew not, or rather *he* knew not what flirting was." Sat with this friend and another couple on the upper deck of the steamboat admiring the moonlight on the water. Obliquely identifies him to Ann.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.7cm. x 20.4cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., July 24, [1838].

Was shocked by the sudden death of Ross Pearce, an intimate friend of "A[llen McLane]". Discusses the McLane family. Tells of an entertaining flirtation. Has no serious interest in the man yet but thinks the best way of "forwarding a match [is] to get your Parents, two or three maiden Aunts and some prudish Sisters to oppose it." Is anxious to meet Ann's cousin W[illiam] Morris who is said to have a fine mind, with a "poet's eye". Spends her time reading Byron and Shakespeare. Plans to read all Scott's novels. Recently enjoyed *Rob Roy*. Tells of activities and anniversaries in her own family, refers to mutual friends and inquires about the Ridgelys.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Aug. 12, 1838.

Thanks her friend for understanding advice about the problem discussed in her last letter, apparently her father's insistence that she break off a friendship with "Darcy", a naval officer aboard [U. S. S.] *Pennsylvania*. Also writes of "poor Don" from the same ship, who is suffering from tuberculosis. Speaks of Elizabeth, James and [John C.] Groome, C. Freeman, Sophy and Mary Potts, Col. and Mrs. . . . Pearce, Annie Read, Lucy [Lucinda] Hall, Alexander and Archibald Hamilton and her own relatives. Has had entertaining calls from "the Widower." Tells of recent deaths from dysentery in Wilmington.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK, New Castle, Del.], Sept. 15, [18]38.

"The Absentee" [. . . Poindexter] is back. Enjoys his visit, but hopes to avoid any declaration of love during his stay, as she wishes to keep his friendship permanently. Sent Don . . . "one of these little barking toy dogs" as a reminder of a pet of his. Discusses him at some length. Asks Ann to visit. Tells of Mrs. . . . Smith's marriage and the parties given in her honor. Mentions Mary Ann Read.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 24cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], Phil[adelphia], Sept. 23, 1838.

Boils on the front and back of his neck, now lanced, plead his excuse for not writing. Teases Nic[holas Ridgely] about having "a pair of bran-new silver spectacles on his nose" when he "commences the discussion" Thursday evening. His slippers "lined with red morocco" are very satisfactory. Asks if the manure and lime were washed off his lot by a recent heavy rain.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ARAH] B[LACK, New Castle, Del., c. October, 1838].

Bubbles with curiosity over a hint Ann may be engaged. "The A[bsentee, . . . Poindexter]" and his friends have joined the *Ohio* at Boston. Hopes "nothing of consequence" will be said between them for she does not wish to give a direct answer now. Mentions Don . . . , Jamie [Groome] who is recovering from croup, her family, Mary Ann Read, and Mary and Julia McLane. Is going to Philadelphia.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.4cm. x 19.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Oct. 14, [18]38.

Writes at length of mutual friends, and of various social activities.

A. L. S.

6 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] C[OUPER], New Castle, Del., Nov. 4, [c. 1838].

Professional duties will keep her husband from attending the Medical Society meeting in Dover, so she must postpone her long-anticipated visit. Is disappointed. Mentions her parents, sisters Sarah [Black] and Lizzie [Groome], and the latter's son.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], Philadelphia, Nov. 4, 1838.

Admires Ann's skill in avoiding an unwelcome proposal of marriage, and her "dignity." Writes of mutual acquaintances, including Mr. . . . McFee, Charles Marim, Don . . . , Mr. . . . Hurst of [U. S. S.] *Ohio*, his shipmate "the Absentee" [. . . Poindexter] and his sister Mrs. . . . Stockton, "Mrs. John M. Read, a sister of Miss . . . Marshall of Boston", Henry Lockwood, and Mary, Julia and George McLane. Tells of invitations to parties, teas, dances and a concert. Attended "the Franklin Institute Exhibition of American manufactures." Knit a purse of "a claret brown with steel beads" for a departing sailor friend; needs a handsome tassel and rings for it. Extends and discusses numerous confidences.

A. L. S.

7 pp.

20.7cm. x 24.7cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[A R A H] B[LACK], New Castle, Del., Nov. 19, [1838].

"The Absentee" has joined his ship for a thirty-month cruise. Discusses her feeling about him. Alludes to a friend of Ann's "now on board the *John Adams*". Admires her "tact and presence of mind" in an incident involving H. Lockwood. Invites her to New Castle. Mary's [McLane] wedding is next month. Her father [James R. Black] disapproves of "Don". Reminisces about the year since U. S. S. *Pennsylvania* anchored at New Castle and she met three of its "middies". Will be nineteen on November 21.

A. L. S.

6 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH B[LACK, New Castle, Del., ante Dec. 20, 1838].

Is hurt at not hearing from Ann. Was disappointed that "The Absentee" [. . . Poindexter] got no leave before sailing for Italy. Bought a plain white satin "bridal" dress for Mary's [McLane] wedding about December 12th.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11.5cm. x 18cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from [SARAH BLACK], "Wood Lawn", Cecilton, Md., Dec. 21, [18]38.

After seeing her cousin Mary's [Mrs. Thomas Ward] home and husband is better reconciled to her marriage to "a farmer". Describes the activities of the bride and groom, and Mr. . . . Holliday, Joe Veasey, Annie Read, Julia Mc[Lane], Eliza Ward and Mr. . . . Parker. Sends news of "my friend Don", who is gradually recovering. Worries over her father's [James R. Black] frail health.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.7cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SALLY [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Jan. 9, 1839.

Gives a long account of her stay at "Wood Lawn", [near Elkton, Maryland] as one of Mary's [Ward, née McLane] wedding guests. Was by turns disgusted, grieved and sympathetic at "Don's . . ." intemperance while there.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANNIE [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Feb. 11, [1839].

Teases Ann about her lack of romantic interest in men. Thinks Sir Walter Scott's poems inferior to his novels. Complains of becoming "a martyr to dyspesia" but considers the prescription of exercise worse than the disease. Asks if "the Del[aware] Reg"[ister, William Huffington] disappeared with the last issue of his magazine or still "lives to watch the glimmering of your taper." Alludes to a friend sailing aboard the *Ohio* whose constancy she doubts will last three years, since even "noble, gallant" Frank duPont broke his engagement to Miss . . . Morris on his return from a Mediterranean cruise. Miss . . . Lofland, reported engaged to Mr. . . . Austin, is "pretty . . . but a mere votary of fashion." Refers to her father's insistence that she dismiss a suitor who once appeared at the house intoxicated. Nancy Stockton's fiancé, Mr. . . . Heap, died suddenly. Had a pleasant visit in Elkton. Mentions Sarah Rogers, Mary Page, and Mary Ward.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., [c. March, 1839].

Repeated attacks of stomach trouble have forced her to abandon her "stays" completely. Hears U. S. S. *Ohio* has arrived safe at Mahon. Refers to "the A" [bsentee . . . Poindexter] and to a doctor with whom she has started to flirt. Likes him, but thinks him in no danger of becoming "entangled." Mentions Julia [McLane], George Read, and Nicholas and Henry [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from [SARAH BLACK, New Castle, Del.], Mar. 4, 1839.

Asks if a certain box shall be sent by stage, and about Nicholas' [Ridgely] return from New Castle. Worries about her father's slow recovery from a three-months' illness. Has been reading Sarah Stickney's *Women of England*, Miss . . . Landon's *Poetical Works*, a translation of Mme. deStael's *Corinne* and Russell's *Ancient Europe*. Speaks of friends Dr. . . . T[homas], "Don", and George Read.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 13, [1839].

Worries about her father's continued ill health. Is hurt at Mary's [Ward] neglect, for which she blames Julia [McLane]. Inquires about certain suitors of Ann. Hears rumors of war which might either recall the *Ohio*, which had a fast trip to Europe, at once, or trap her for years in the Mediterranean. Finds Dr. . . . T[homas] a pleasant companion for walks and long talks about books, though [Midshipman Poindexter] still fills her thoughts "too continually." Wonders if the "dark Chinese rose" is the same as "the Sanguinia or Otaheite." Discusses a box lost en route to Dover by stage.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 19.3cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Mar 27, [c. 1839].

Is gravely concerned over her father's continuing illness. Still grieves over the death of her little sister Jane [Black, eighteen months previous]. Alludes to her own and Ann's romances and mentions relatives and mutual friends in New Castle. Wishes Ann would be confirmed at Easter.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ARAH] S. B[LACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 28, [1839].

Many of her friends are candidates for confirmation at Easter. After serious consideration she feels herself still unready to join them, but wishes Ann would do so. Dr. . . . T[homas], who was raised a Quaker, is considering baptism and confirmation in the near future.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., c. spring, 1839].

Received a fine white moss rose and a blooming plant of "La Cherie" as a gift from Dr. . . . T[homas]. Accepted the gift as a "Philipoena". Refers to her sister, parents, and "Aunt and Uncle [John and Maria] Donaldson."

A. N. S. 2 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., April 5, [c. 1839].

Spends most evenings reading aloud to her father, who gains but slowly. Hopes she and Ann may both join the Church at the Bishop's next visit. [Dr.] . . . T[homas] is also deeply interested in religion and has laid aside Byron for "Keith on the Prophecies." Spends much time with him. Fears he is falling in love with her. Was grieved at the deaths of "your Aunt [Mrs. John] Hillyard's little girl" and a child who lived next door to the Ridgelys. Discusses her own flirtations and Ann's, alluding by nickname to various acquaintances. Also mentions Ann's fondness for gardening. Supposes the Ridgelys are pleased to "have Henry [Ridgely] home again . . . an M. D." Is shocked at the living conditions reported aboard [U. S. S.] *Ohio*, where the officers are quartered on the sunless, airless orlop deck where many have become ill. Blames "Mrs. [Isaac] Hull and Miss . . . Hart" [relatives of the commanding officer] for the situation. Worries about friends aboard. Mentions the members of her family, Marianne Read, [Mr.] . . . Hurst, Miss . . . McKnight, Mr. Pressman, [Rev. Stephen Wilson Presstman], Susan Booth and others. Has read *Corrine*, James' *Tales of Passions*, "Abercrombie on the moral feelings" and the same author's *Intellectual Powers*.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 20.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., April 19, [18]38 [1839].

Complains of Ann's failure to answer her letters. Writes at length of walks, rides, and conversations with "T" [Dr. . . . Thomas] of whom she is very fond but not in love. Is distressed to "find it is impossible to have a gentleman a devoted friend

without his thinking of something else." Now regrets having "eaten a Philipoena" with him, since he may now make her a present. Suspects it may be a pencil more valuable than she cares to accept.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., May 16, [c. 1839].

Describes a busy day at home. Her parents are in Philadelphia. Worries because Dr. T[homas] loves her while she only admires him. Is distressed that he will be transferred from New Castle. Deplores that one cannot have "friends without lovers in gentlemen." Mentions George Read and Anna Booth.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., May 28, [1839].

Tells at length of a quarrel with [Dr.] . . . T[homas] which occurred because she and Anna Booth decided to switch escorts one evening without consulting the gentlemen. An apologetic note brought him back "more devoted than ever." He soon leaves New Castle. "Poor Allen [McLane] sailed yesterday for Batavia," hoping that the trip "would reclaim him."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., June 23, 1839.

Leaves soon for Newport, [Rhode Island] where her father [James R. Black] is going for his health. Is uneasy over having consented to let [Dr.] . . . T[homas] write while she is away, but lacked courage to refuse. Does not really think the correspondence wrong. Gives further details concerning the trip to Newport.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH B[LACK], New Castle, Del., Aug. 8, [1839].

Has arrived home after a distressing trip from "New Port," [Rhode Island] with her father who became worse before their departure and is now gravely ill.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Aug. 14, [1839].

Writes in deep distress to notify the Ridgelys that her father [James R. Black] is critically ill after a relapse the previous day. Does not expect his recovery. All the relatives have been summoned.

A. N. S. 2 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Aug. 25, [1839].

Her father, still dangerously ill, is stronger. Confesses that she wrote to a man while she was in Newport without her parents' consent. Knows it was wrong but liked him too well to break off the correspondence. Mentions the members of her family, also Julia, Louis and Robert McLane, and Mary [Ward].

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], Philadelphia, Sept. 9, [18]39.

Still finds it impossible to realize her father's [James R. Black] death. Describes the closing hours of his life. Shares her religious reflections. Believes her sister's [Jane Black] death contributed to her father's fatal illness. Was amazed that his mind remained "perfectly clear and strong" although he suffered from a "disease of the brain."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from ELIZABETH BANNING, Wilmington, Sept. 22, 1839.

Alludes to the "unfortunate" marriage of her brother John [Banning] and to her own unhappiness. Is tempted to believe in fate but knows the thought is "wrong and sinful." Feels no deep interest in religion. Is pleased that Nicholas plans to enter the ministry. Refers to a warm comradeship between them. Mentions members of her family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Elkton, Md., from [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., [c. Oct., 1839].

Is distressed over a break with a man whose friendship she valued. Fears her own conduct will be criticized. Feels lost without her father's counsel. Begs Ann to return to New Castle soon.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.6cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Elkton, Md., from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, [Del.], Oct. 8, [c. 1839].

Is outraged by a request, sent through Anna Booth, for the return of a rejected suitor's letters. Now regrets a recent "kind" message to him. Still misses her father intensely.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, Wilmington, October 9, 1839.

Continues a discussion of religion, explaining her stand in detail. William [Banning] has been very ill in Philadelphia but is recovering. John [Banning] will soon begin farming. Mentions her parents, and Mary, Sally and Alice [Banning].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Nov. 5, [1839].

Describes, at great length, her final parting from Dr. . . . T[homas]. Alludes to a suitor of Ann, and to [James R. Black's] death. Mentions Ann Booth and "little Walter Booth" who remains critically ill.

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Nov. 13, [1839].

Grieves inordinately for her father. Discusses her love affairs. Was much pleased with Ann's friend "L"[ockwood] who she is certain loves her. Wrote "a terribly stiff letter" to a woman friend who has neglected her. Loui[sa] Pearce is gravely ill of consumption.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[A R A H] B[LACK], Philadelphia, Nov. 24, Dec. 3, [1839].

Her affection for Dr. . . . T[homas] has been killed by receipt of a copy of the *Baltimore Sun*, "a low paper" containing a letter obviously written by him and addressed to her, teasingly pressing a once-rejected suit. Both she and Dr. [James] C[ouper] consider it a gross insult. Hopes Ann may return the loyal affection Mr. L[ockwood] has cherished for her since his West Point days. Adds an account of a second "impudent" letter in the *Sun*. Mentions her family, Tom and Mary Ward, and Julia, Robert and George McLane. Alludes to her father's illness and death.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 19.4cm. x 24.7cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, Dec. 14, 1839.

Cannot rouse any deep religious feeling, though she reads the Bible and attends church regularly. Comments on the news that Nicholas has joined the Methodists. Hopes his ambition for the ministry is realized. Refers to Aunt [Elizabeth] Lowber, Aunt Mary [Hillyard], William [Banning], her mother, and Ann [Ridgely].

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Dec. 15, [1839].

Wails accusingly over having received no letter from Ann for a month. Continues the account of the letters in the *Sun* and tells of a curt correspondence about them between Dr. [James] C[ouper] and Dr. . . . T[homas]. Writes extravagantly of her love for her late father. Louisa Pearce is critically ill.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Dec. 16, 1839.

Congratulates Nicholas upon joining the Church. Hopes for a frequent correspondence with him as his only Dover intimate and now a "Christian friend" as well. Inquires about his Sunday school work. Is extremely busy in Philadelphia. Mentions the Eccleston girls and John Harper.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from J. C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., Dec. 24, 1839.

Announces the birth of his second child, a son. The mother and grandmother are disappointed that the baby is not a girl.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, c/o DR. R[OBERT] PORTER, Wilmington, from "SOPHIE" [MISS] SARAH [BLACK, New Castle, Del., c. 1840].

Looks forward to seeing Ann shortly. Ridicules Miss . . . Stout's idea that "your 'frere Galen' [Dr. Henry Ridgely] and I are simple enough to fall in love with each other."

A. N. S. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from J[OHN] C. GROOME, Elkton, Md., Jan. 4, 1840.

Sends a pencil case to his wife's dearest friend as a memento of the birth of their child and as a keepsake from their entire family.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHY [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Jan. 6, [c. 1840].

Is bitterly disappointed at not finding an escort to Dover. Recounts a dream about her deceased father [James R. Black] for whom she still grieves. Inquires the date of Lucinda's [Hall] wedding. Mentions Mrs. . . . Jefferson, who was [Dr. Thomas'] landlady and confidante, Mr. . . . Booth, Mr. . . . Gray and Tom Stockton.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.5cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHY [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Jan. 6, [c. 1840].

Mr. [Henry M.] Ridgely must not come up for her in such cold weather, but if Nicholas [Ridgely] is up she will be delighted not to miss the long-planned visit. Writes scathingly of Major [Thomas] Stockton's "heartless and infamous behavior" to a certain family. Teases Henry [Ridgely] about Lucy's [Lucinda Hall] marriage.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.4cm. x 25.5cm.

[MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from [SARAH BLACK, New Castle, Del., post Jan. 6, c. 1840].

At Ann's suggestion has substituted [David] Hume's history for her usual light reading. Summarizes a religious discussion in which she upheld the Low-Church view, mentioning Mrs. . . . Booth and [Rev.] Mr. S. W. Presstman. Regrets the Dover [Christ] Church has been so unsuitably supplied of recent years that the congregation hesitate to call another clergyman. Refers by nickname to various present and former admirers. Expresses the deepest affection for Ann. Chats of other mutual friends and of her own romantic attachments. Discusses *Memoirs of Lorenzo de Medici*, *Attila*, *Ivanhoe*, *Home* and "Rogers' *Italy*." With access to Jamie's [Dr. James Couper] library she plans to read more. Refers to U. S. S. *Ohio* and Frank [Lt. S. F.] duPont's expected return. A dress has been successfully dyed, gloves purchased for forty-four cents, and eight yards of material selected for a dress [for Mrs. Nicholas

Ridgely] at \$.56 $\frac{1}{2}$ per yard. Inquires about the reported illness of Lucinda's [née Hall] new husband [Dr. Robert R. Porter]. Lt. . . . French and Miss Carrie Read, and Lt. . . . Reeves and Annie Reed are to be married soon. Mary [Mrs. Thomas Ward] has an infant daughter.

A. L. U. 9 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH BANNING, Wilmington, Jan. 7, 1840.

Deplores the end of their understanding comradeship but cannot share his religious experience of the last few months. Comments upon the great change in him. Begs him to continue writing.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN B.] COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 1840.

Complains of city life's constant demands upon his time, although he is neither courting nor often detained by his work at the store. Finds the duty of paying a quarterly visit to his Sunday school pupils' homes a trying one. Writes at length of the Christian life. Is concerned about Pem [Manlove].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 23cm. x 28cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHY [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Jan. 13, 1840.

Mrs. . . . Read has just died of pneumonia after a brief illness. Worries about her eternal welfare, for despite efforts to "arouse her to her danger" she expected to recover and may not have been "prepared to die." Begs Ann to visit them, despite the death, when she comes to attend an approaching wedding. Alludes to frequent racing on the highway since a second stage line was opened. Discusses a rejected admirer of her own. Loui[sa] Pierce is dead.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from ELIZABETH BANNING, Wilmington, Feb. 23, 1840.

Thinks she may some day "become religious", though she finds it impossible now. Tells of her engagement to an unnamed suitor. Refers to her sister Sally [Banning]. Asks if [H. M. Ridgely] is willing for Nicholas to become a minister.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, on board Steamship *Kent*, New Castle, Del., from [SARAH BLACK, New Castle, Del., c. spring, 1840].

Fears the boat may not stop for wood at New Castle, allowing time for a chat at the wharf, so writes of the plans for a visit on Ann's return. Mentions hair for a braided bracelet to be taken to Bailey and Kitchens, Philadelphia; knitting silk from Mustin's Trimming Store at 7th and Arch Streets; powder from the hairdresser's; an exchange of locks of hair; and an old-fashioned locket. Refers to Mrs. [Victorine] Bauduy, Miss . . . duPont, Mrs. [Robert] Porter, Julia [McLane], Dr. [John] L[ockwood] and her own aunts Sophie . . . and Eliza Gives the [John] Donaldsons' address in Philadelphia.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 4, [1840].

Protests the depth of her love for Ann. Was distressed by having to move her dead father's books from one room to another. Alludes to several different romantic attachments, and to her anger at Dr. . . . T[homa]s' letters to "a low penny paper." Was pleasantly surprised at Henry's [Ridgely] easy, cordial bearing.

A. L. S.

5 pp.

20cm. x 25.3cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Mar. 9, 1840.

Explains his failure to see Nicholas before leaving Dover. Discusses Sunday school texts, the Sunday school in Dover, and a religious revival in Philadelphia. At Mr. . . . Coleman's Episcopal Church, which he attends, there are over eighty applications for membership.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

21cm. x 27cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK, New Castle, Del.], Mar. 9, 1840.

Writes at length of "Damon" who is in deep disfavor. Is exhausted from the preparations for sharing their home with her sister's family which have entailed "the breaking up of what has been about 34 years in collecting", and dreads the [public] sale of articles that cannot be kept. Denies betraying a confidence Ann [Ridgely] entrusted to her. Sends a collar to be worn with a wrapper. Refers to Ann's fondness for gardening.

A. L. S.

5 pp.

20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 14, [1840].

Quotes from "Damon's" recent love letter, which she thinks "too full of passionate speeches" to be sincere. Intends to refuse him. Spent a harrowing day packing her father's [James R. Black], "my earthly Idol," law library for shipment. Resents being called a flirt. Comments acidly on Mrs. [Robert R.] Porter, who "has coquetted until she is on the shady side of 30" and has finally chosen an unattractive husband. Wants her "bitter" remarks about him repeated to Dr. . . . T[homas]. Saw Mr. . . . Clay. Discusses the blissful, absorbing experience she thinks true love will be and the jealousy she considers a necessary part of it. Wails childishly about being "an orphan" and "homeless" because her father's large house is now to be shared with her brother-in-law's [James Couper] family.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 21, [1840].

Has been ill from the exertion and distress of rearranging the house to accommodate Dr. [James] C[ouper]'s family. Discusses the rite of confirmation. Likes Mr. . . . Clay and is sure there will never be anything but friendship between them. Writes at length of "Damon" and other mutual acquaintances. Sends a long, contemptuous message to Dr. . . . T[homas], who has written to Ann [Ridgely] in regard to his quarrel. Muses on the inconstancy of men.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] ELIZABETH LOWBER, Philadelphia, Mar. 26, 1840.

Is greatly pleased to learn of Nicholas' religious inclinations. Writes at length of religious matters. Still misses her cousin [Mrs. Henry Ridgely] "your dear Mother." Asks if he is coming to Conference. Sends some books.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 23.3cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S [A R A H] B[LACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 30, [1840].

News that . . . Poindexter has been court martialed and suspended from the Navy has grieved and shocked her. Fears he may resign and "go the same course Allen [McLane] has done." Does not think she loves him but is very fond of him. Wonders how to receive him if he visits her. Appreciates the kindness shown by [her brother-in-law] Dr. [James] C[ouper]. "Burn this instantly you have read it."

A. N. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, [Del.], April 1, 1840.

Worries over Ann's illness, reminding her to always wear "gum elastic or thick shoes" in the garden. Describes a fire in New Castle that threatened the Presbyterian Church. Explains her loyalty to a young man who is under criticism. Sends "a few India mats . . . useful with warm cakes, etc. at Tea", and a little religious book for Nicholas [Ridgely]. Mentions the game "Tour through Europe", which she had loved as a child. Carry Read and "Mr. . . . French of the Army" were married on Tuesday. Names Anna Booker, "Willy" [Ridgely] and Sally Caldwell; Mary [Mrs. James] Couper and her baby; and others of her own family.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, April 7, 1840.

Describes her fiancé, Mr. . . . Elliott. Fears his family does not approve of their engagement. Refers to Nicholas' [Ridgely] deceased mother, to "Aunt Mary Lowber" and to the autobiography of Bishop Bavenscroft. Hopes for a visit from Nicholas.

A. L. S.

3 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from D[ANIEL] M. BATES, Wilmington, April 9, 1840.

Writes of religious topics. Hates the noise and confusion of Philadelphia. Will be glad to get back to Dover. Regrets that Nicholas will be in Georgetown, [Delaware] when he arrives. Mentions Ann [Ridgely] and [Benjamin B.] Comegys.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., April 12, [c. 1840].

Chides Ann for her long silence. Is convinced she herself does not love [. . . Poindexter]. Begs Ann to visit Philadelphia with her, staying with Aunt [Maria] Donaldson, who joins in the invitation. Wonders how Mr. . . . Lockwood is succeeding in his courtship of Ann. Mentions relatives and New Castle friends.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

19.7cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, April 13, 1840.

Is puzzled by Nicholas' change in attitude toward her and the request for the return of his letters. Mentions John [Banning], Dr. [Caleb] Harlan, Rev. Mr. [Thomas] Love, and Dr. . . . Gibbons. Temperance lectures are held at the schoolhouse almost weekly. Doubts that women are intellectually inferior to men.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.3cm. x 24.6cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, c/o C. G. RIDGELY, George Town, Del., from [MISS] ANN RIDGELY, Dover, April 16, 1840.

Discusses a "singular" letter from Sarah Black, and one from [Dr.] T[homas] in Baltimore relative to a misunderstanding with Miss Black. Does not "think it is proper" for their father to inquire about her correspondents. Expects Nicholas [Ridgely] and Ned [Edward Ridgely] home soon. Fears the latter is "troublesome" to Mrs. [C. G.] Ridgely and that he is missing too much school time. Alludes to an estrangement between herself and [her aunt] Mrs. [William] Morris. Is determined to visit Maryland in June, despite their father's opposition, even "if I have to get in the stage and travel alone. I think I stay at home a vast deal." Sends word to Ned "that it is wonderful how long the biscuits last" in his absence.

A. L. [S. inferred] 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK] and LIZZIE [MRS. JOHN C. GROOME], New Castle, Del., April 17, [c. 1840].

Sarah pleads with her friend not to postpone a promised visit and to spend several weeks rather than a few days. Will send their carriage if Mr. Ridgely objects to his daughter's accepting Charles Marim's offer to bring her, an invitation she implies might be followed by a proposal of marriage. Alludes to a friend's departure for N[ew] O[rleans].

Lizzie seconds her sister's invitation and expects Ann to spend part of her time in Elkton, [Maryland] with her. Mentions her own infant son John [Groome].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., April 20, [c. 1840].

Sends a scornful message to Dr. . . . Thomas. Begs Ann not to postpone her visit to New Castle. Believes the A[bsentee, . . . Poindexter] has sailed from Gibraltar to New Orleans, the port nearest his home at Grand Gulf

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], Philadelphia, April 29, [1840].

Fears disgrace may ruin "the A" [. . . Poindexter] who has just arrived. Denies she loves him. Doubts if marriage is really an enviable state. Writes of her family, particularly her little nephew James [Groome]. "Drawn bonnets are very much used, some made of . . . crape [or] bishop lawn (white) & others of silk." Straw is also fashionable again. Mousseline and printed lawn are the most popular dress materials. Recalls that Ann [Ridgely] prefers blue. Refers to W[illia]m Parker, Annie Read and her fiancé "Mr. . . . Reeves of the Army", and James Curtis Booth.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, New Castle, Del., May 7, 1840.

Extends an invitation to spend several weeks in New Castle. Dr. [James] Couper will escort Ann [Ridgely] up as he returns from the meeting of the Medical Society at Dover.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, May 8, 1840.

On the eve of his twenty-first birthday he reflects solemnly on his wasted youth and the best means of now improving his time and talents. Recounts his efforts at converting one of his Sunday school pupils, Charly Lipman, quoting at length from his diary of his religious life. Deplores his early reading habits. Now restricts himself to "such books as will do me good."

A. L. S. 6 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK, Philadelphia], May 9, [c. 1840].

Insists upon having a visit from Ann soon. Refers to Mr. . . . Lockwood, "the A"[. . . Poindexter], "Damon", Midshipman . . . Nicolls, and the Philadelphia milliner Mrs. . . . Browne. Mentions the bonnets described in a recent letter. Uncle [John Donaldson] greatly admires Ann.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 18.5cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from M[ARY] B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, New Castle, Del., May 9, 1840.

Is disappointed that a visit with Ann [Ridgely] must be postponed. A "very frightful fire in Read's alley" threatened the entire town of Elkton, which was saved only by timely rain. Mentions "Mrs. . . . Gray's baby."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] E[LIZABETH] BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, May 12, 1840.

Asks advice in overcoming her fits of melancholy. Continues a religious discussion. Likes both Addison's *Spectator* and Johnson's *Rambler*, but prefers the latter. Is ambitious for her brothers. Mentions John and William [Banning], her parents, Alice and Mary [Banning], and Mrs. . . . Davis, the former [Miss] E. Caldwell. Cousin [Elizabeth] Lowber may soon visit Dover.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], Philadelphia, May 19, [1840].

Has purchased 13 yards of mousseline, "a stone-colour ground with a small green sprig & a lilac one," at \$.70 per yard. It can be made with the fashionable two flounces and very long, as dresses are now worn. Capes are usually trimmed with ruffles. Miss . . . Davis, 12 N. 10th St., [Philadelphia] will make a dress and cape for \$2.50, with extra charge for flounces. Had a friendly visit with [Mr. . . . Poindexter] and plans to see more of him. Rejected "Damon's" second proposal of marriage. Describes the scene at length. Mentions Annie Lockwood, Mrs. . . . Harrington and other friends.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 18.6cm. x 23cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., May 27, [1840].

The dress will cost \$4.00. Now accepts the apology offered by Dr. . . . T[homas] who is said to be ill, and asks Ann [Ridgely] to send him that message despite her scruples against corresponding with a gentleman. "Damon" still presses his unwelcome suit. Is amused that Philadelphia friends all think her engaged to . . . Poindexter and about to elope with him if family opposition continues.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, June 4, 1840.

Writes in detail about Sunday school problems both have encountered. Discusses the religious life. Has greatly enjoyed their correspondence since both have been Church members. Mentions Dan[iel] M. B[ates], Joseph [Comegys], Uncle Ch[arles] Marim, Mr. . . . Dunning and the Misses Eccleston.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., June 7, [1840].

Has been "engaged with the mantua maker from breakfast until tea time", and suffered a visit from Mrs. W[illia]m H. Freeman, a cousin whom she dislikes. Feels great remorse at hearing how wretched a rebuffed suitor appears, for she still likes him. Is angry with "Damon" whose proposal of marriage was very unwelcome. Speaks of her intense affection for Ann. Is delighted that [. . . Poindexter] has protested his suspension by "old [Isaac] Hull" who has sent numerous other officers home, Frank [Lt. S. F.] duPont among them.

A. L. U. 8 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from [REV.] ARTHUR W. MILBY, Lewes, Del., June 14, 1840.

Extends an invitation to visit Lewes. Has found no new friends so congenial as Nicholas and [Daniel] Bates were in Dover. Wishes he could have remained there. Discusses religion. Comments on the changeable weather.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, June 15, 1840.

Worries over her inability to share Nicholas' religious convictions. Hopes he will soon pay another visit. Refers to her mother, Mary, Sally and Alice [Banning], and [Mr. . . . Elliott].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, Del., June 21, [1840].

Begs Ann to visit New Castle. Is pleased that the suspended officers of the *Ohio* have been returned to duty aboard the same ship. Is convinced the man to whom she would now be married "if that rupture had not taken place last fall" loved her devotedly. Ross Crawford's vessel and several others are now in port. Describes the "immense procession" that passed through New Castle on the way to a Whig meeting at Del[aware] City.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., June 28, 1840.

Pleads with Ann to hasten a planned visit, possibly coming up with "some of the gentlemen that go down tomorrow to the Tippecanoe Meeting." Her family believes "Galen" [apparently Dr. . . . Thomas] returns as a suitor though she has sworn on her knees she will not marry him over opposition. Alludes

with contempt to "Damon" and affectionately to an unnamed seafarer. Mentions Frank [Lt. S. F.] duPont, Lt. and Mrs. . . . Pendergast, Lt. and Mrs. . . . Blake, Mrs. [Robert] Porter, Dr. L. . . ., Anna Booth and her own family.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. C[OMEGYS], Philadelphia, July 7, 1840.

Discusses Sunday school and other religious problems and activities, mentioning [the Rev.] Mr. Todd, the Sunday school of First Congregational Church, *The Teacher Taught* and Covel's *Questions*. Is much occupied in business hours keeping two sets of books by double entry.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Wilmington, from DANIEL M. BATES, Ithaca, N. Y., July 15, 1840.

Describes a trip to Ithaca by way of the Hudson River, Albany, Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica and Auburn. Alludes to his intimacy with Nicholas, to their hope of visiting Palestine together, to the discouraging state of the Sunday school at Dover, and to "our engagement at Smyrna." Mentions Pem [Manlove], [Ann Ridgely] and "our friend [Benjamin B.] Comegys".

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 32cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, Aug. 5, 1840.

Recalls the highlights of Nicholas' recent visit, which she greatly enjoyed. Was caught painting the porch when Dr. . . . Harland [David Harlan] called. He thought the poetry Nicholas wrote very good. Mentions her mother, grandfather, E. Brindey, and Mr. . . . Elliott.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. C[OMEGYS], Philadelphia, Aug. 21, 1840.

Offers advice and encouragement in regard to the Sunday school at Dover, implying that Nicholas and [Daniel M.] Bates are the only individuals assuming much responsibility for the project. Tells of problems in his own classes. Prays for a revival of religion in Dover, where there has been the greatest indifference, and "Sabbath-breaking was the common practice of all."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, [Del.], Aug. 23, [c. 1840].

Has checked an attack of dysentery by doses of calomel and opium. Has been reading Mrs. . . . Claver's *A New Home, Who'll Follow*, which gives an amusing account of life in Michigan, *Shakespeare and His Friends*, and a translation of Schiller's *Plays and Wallenstien*. Knows nothing of "the Navy" since the cutters have not yet returned. Mentions Annie Lofland, Mrs. . . . Blake, Mrs. . . . Pendergast, Miss . . . Young and the latter's brother whom she wishes Ann might meet. Mr. . . . Booth has just returned from Cape May but his daughters are still at Niagara. Admires the conduct of a former admirer of Ann, now about to be married.

A. L. S.

5 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

[MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover], from M[ARY] B. [MRS. JAMES] C[OUPER, JR., New Castle, Del. c. Sept. 9, 1840].

Acknowledges a collar Ann has sent as a gift. Appreciates [Henry M. Ridgely's] kindness. Sarah [Black] "has been cupped—dry I mean & only one of them," to relieve her injured back.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

12.8cm. x 20cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ARAH] SOPHIE [BLACK], New Castle, Del., Sept. 9, [1840].

Writes at length of Lt. [William] Young who promises to become "an excellent flirting companion." Refers to the anniversary of her father's death, and a tribute to his memory paid by [H. M. Ridgely]. Alludes to members of both families and mutual friends. Acknowledges gifts of handwork from the Ridgely girls to herself, her mother, sister and aunts.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, Sept. 10, 1840.

Is disturbed by news contained in Nicholas' recent letter. Hopes he is happy in the situation but thinks it is "unworthy" of him. Cannot understand why he feels "dependent upon anyone" when he is still so young, and hopes he will not remain in the position longer than six months.

A. L. S.

2 pp.

19.5cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from BENJ[AMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Sept. 15, 1840.

Congratulates his friend on accepting a district school [in Dover]. Encourages his inclination toward the ministry despite his poor vision. Wishes D[aniel] M. Bates had entered it. Thinks Daniel and Nicholas were placed "in that guilty town [Dover] to be his servants." Discusses Sunday school problems.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, Sept. 20, 1840.

Believes she recognizes his contribution in a paper he sent her. Apologizes for expressing her opinion of his occupation so freely. Mentions Mr. [Daniel M.] Bates, Mr. . . . Elliott and the "church at Brandywine."

A. L. S.

4 pp.

19.4cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Sept. 21, [1840].

Is confined to bed with a back injury suffered in "bolting one of the parlour windows." Likes Mr. [William] Young so much she has almost forgotten her "auld love." Is annoyed by the gossip about her previous flirtations which is being told to "the Navy Ladies" and repeated to him. Accuses Nancy Stockton especially. Lists the books she is reading. Alludes to "Galen" [Dr. . . . Thomas] and Allen McL[ane].

A. L. S.

4 pp.

20cm. x 33cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SOPHIE [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Oct. 8, [1840].

Comments on Julia's [McLane] approaching marriage to Dr. [John] Lockwood and on an erroneous report of [Allen McLane's] death. Encourages Mr. [William] Young's visits despite her family's opposition, which she discusses at length, and which has made her begin receiving him alone in her own parlour. Admits he has a better chance of success if he becomes a suitor than any of his predecessors did. Mentions Mary Rogers, the [Stephen W.] Presstmans and the Morris family. In a dream promised Mr. [William] Young's sister not to "trifle with his . . . affections" and means to keep the vow in fact. "I do think (*now*) flirting is a crime."

A. L. S.

7 pp.

20cm. x 25.3cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from BENJ[AMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Oct. 16, 1840.

Complains that his work, religious meetings and Sunday school activities leave him almost no free hours. Encourages Nicholas in his teaching and his hope of entering the ministry. Has abandoned his dream of that career for himself. Is at present unsettled and unhappy. Sends regards to [Daniel M.] Bates and the Eccleston girls.

A. L. S.

4 pp.

20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from LIZZIE [MRS. JOHN C. GROOME], Elkton, Md., Oct. 18, [1840].

Tells of her small sons James and John [Groome], complains of the irregular hours and much company incident to sessions of court, and confides her uneasiness about planning a formal "bar dinner" for her husband. Fears Sarah [Black] may marry Mr. [William] Young, whom she thinks mediocre and whose profession their father [James R. Black] frowned upon. Disapproves this sister's habit of lighting her "astral lamp" in the room adjoining the one where the family sit, and entertaining her guest alone. Alludes to Julia McLane's approaching marriage to Dr. [John] L[ockwood], to a tragedy befalling Eliza Pearce, and to Miss [Mary] Bateman's strong Whig convictions. Lists verbena, dahlias, lilacs including "the scarlet, . . . scarlet & yellow, . . . [and] yellow" varieties, oleander and Sanguinea among her own and Ann's plants. Is making "a black twine bag." Speaks of her father's death, an "Exhibition" in Dover, "the Bunker Hill Fair" which a friend attended, the activities of Elkton friends, and 19-year-old Miss . . . Travers who "has all the confidence of a women of thirty. How I dislike such manners." Disapproves the dismissal of [Richard Sharp] Mason [as President of Delaware College], chiefly at the instance of Charles Marim. With the election of [Eliphalet W.] Gilbert the institution will become "a new school Presbyterian College."

A. L. S.

5 pp.

19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from [SARAH BLACK], New Castle, Del., Oct. 23-29, [1840].

Mr. [William] Y[oung] has confessed his love. Admits she returns it and will become engaged if she can win her mother's consent, which she later states has been given. For the first time is perfectly sure of both her own and a suitor's constancy. Indicates that he is an officer in the [U. S.] Coast Survey. Mentions his fellow-officers Capt. . . . Blake and Lt. . . . Todd.

Describes her fiancé's admirable character, temperament and tastes, but admits his awkwardness in company. Discusses the recent marriage of Ann's "quondam lover" Dr. [John A.] L[ockwood] to Julia [McLane]. Hopes he will not secure appointment as surgeon to the Coast Survey schooners. Is sorry to learn "Willy" [Ridgely] has been ill again.

A. L. S. 8 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ARAH] S. B[LACK], New Castle, Del., Nov. 15, [1840].

Hopes Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas] Ridgely has recovered from her severe illness and that "Willy" [Ridgely] is now well. Fears her engagement has in some way affected their friendship, for Ann's letters now seem very reserved. Writes vindictively of Mrs. [John A.] L[ockwood] and affectionately of her own future husband.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS.] M[ARY] R[IDGELY] M[ORRIS], Dover, ante 1841].

Inquires about "your dear Brother", about whom she is much worried.

A. N. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 14.8cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ARAH] S. B[LACK], New Castle, Del., c. 1841].

Has recently seen Dr. . . . Crawford, Mr. . . . McFee, and Mr. . . . Harrington but not Judge [Caleb S.] Layton. "Mon cher ami" [William Young] had his miniature made for her.

A. N. S. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 19.7cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[ARAH] S. B[LACK], Philadelphia, Jan. 4, [1841].

Feels certain, despite her sisters' criticism, that her fiancé, William Y[oung], is the man most suited to her among all she has known. Wants Ann to know him. Will probably be married in May, the best time for Mr. Young's leave. Tells of his family and his personal character. Mentions her own family, Dr. . . . Rush, W[illia]m Stokes, Maria Sergeant and her elder sister Mrs. . . . Meade, Mrs. . . . Raybold and Mrs. . . . Jack. Insists that her love for her future husband has not lessened her affection for Ann.

A. L. S. 5 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH [BLACK], New Castle, [Del.], Feb. 14, [1841].

Fears her engagement or the comments of mutual acquaintances, possible Mrs. [John A.] Lockwood, has lessened Ann's affection. Is certain her friend would approve Mr. [William] Y[oung] if she knew him, and that her own family's objections are prejudiced. May be married in May. Asks about the rumor that Mr. [Charles I.] duPont is very attentive to Ann. Wants "a pretty night cap pattern."

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, New Castle, Del., Feb. 23, 1841.

News of Ann's engagement to Charles I. duPont is a happy surprise. Speaks glowingly of his character, his family and the life to which he will introduce his bride. Assures her she will be warmly welcomed by his adult relatives and can win the love of his children. Is also certain the engagement is not a hasty one, as Sarah's [Black] seems to be. Alludes to Mr. duPont's tenderness toward his deceased wife, Dorcas [Van Dyke] duPont. Looks forward to having Ann so near.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], Feb. 24, 1841.

His sister Amelia [duPont] and sister-in-law Sophia [Mrs. S. F. duPont] "hailed with much pleasure" the announcement of his engagement. Expects his daughter [Mary duPont] to be delighted. Recalls incidents of their courtship and regrets their present separation. Thinks he is "entitled to a vote of thanks of all the gossips male and female of that place" [Dover].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Feb. 25, 1841.

Mentions a catalogue of The Sunday School Union, *Youth's Library*, now "almost out of print", and sources of assistance for a certain Sunday School being organized. Is sorry Nicholas is "to leave the [district] school."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. [S. F.] SOPHIA DUPONT, Wilmington, Feb. 25, 1841.

Warmly welcomes her brother-in-law's fiancée into the family.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MRS. [SAMUEL FRANCIS] SOPHIE DUPONT, Wilmington, from ANNIE [MISS ANN] RIDGELY, [Dover], Feb. 26, 1841.

Appreciates the welcome extended by [her husband's cousin and sister-in-law] Mrs. duPont. Looks forward to ever-closing ties of friendship and affection between them and between herself and the entire duPont family. Feels she has long known Mrs. duPont through their mutual friend Mrs. [James] Couper, [Jr.].

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] AMELIA E. DUPONT, "Louviers", [Del.], Feb. 27, 1841.

Is pleased with her brother's engagement and wishes his fiancée much happiness. "My sister Mrs. [Julia] Shubrich is equally delighted."

A. L. S. 1 pp. 20cm. x 25.5cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.] Feb. 27, 1841.

His children are pleased with the coming marriage. Must visit Washington to protect the position of "an old friend of my Father and Uncle [Victor and E. I. duPont]", despite the "very bad taste of being seen" there when "there will be a perfect rabble . . . and ten thousand office seekers". Mentions Miss . . . Lofland and Mr. . . . Austin. Will be in Dover soon.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from [MRS.] MARY B. C[OUPER], New Castle, [Del.], Mar. 6, 1841.

Quotes from Sophie's [Mrs. S. F. duPont] enthusiastic comment upon Charles' [I. duPont] engagement. Considers the duPont family a particularly charming one. Deplores her own sister's choice of Mr. [William] Y[oung] as a husband, for he seems "so inferior" to Sarah [Black]. Describes the lace-edged or ruffled collars and cuffs being used on night-gowns; promises a pattern. Begs Ann not to confine herself at sewing, for the duPonts, though very neat, "care nothing for dress." Her own husband's aunt is critically ill.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES I. DU PONT, "Louviers", Del., Mar. 10, 1841.

Seizes the first free moment at home to write his "dearest Annie." Cousin Ann Johns, Dr. and Mrs. [James] Couper, Sarah Black, Major Young, Dr. [Robert Montgomery] Bird, Andrew Gray and other New Castle friends were pleased with his approaching marriage, though the men teased him. The news was received with pleased surprise in Wilmington. His sister Julia [Shubrick] is happy at the prospect and wishes Ann to spend a week with her soon "to become acquainted with all the tribe of the DuPonts" before May. "The news from Washington is warlike."

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DU PONT, "Louviers", Del.], Mar. 13, 1841.

Worries over a misunderstanding between them. Mentions "Willy" [Ridgely] and Dr. . . . Emerson. "The war excitement is nearly over as also the fear of a duel between Mr. . . . Clay and . . . King". Doubts he will receive a hoped-for commission from the Legislature.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DU PONT], "Louviers", [Del.], Mar. 16, 1841.

Had determined to "take the Smyrna Boat from Phila[delphi]a" but may delay his visit. Is impatiently awaiting their marriage. Fears Ann will injure her health with "constant needlework".

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.5cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, [Dover], from S[ARAH] S. B[LACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 17, [1841].

Refers to the announcement of Ann's engagement, her own wedding in May, and plans for visiting Philadelphia together soon. Urges Ann to room with her at Aunt [Maria] Donaldson's.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SARAH S. BLACK, New Castle, Del., Mar. 23, [1841].

Expects that each will attend the other's wedding. Will be deeply hurt if her friend selects a date that will prevent this. Also insists that they stay together at Aunt [Maria] Donaldson's in Philadelphia. There Ann can conveniently visit her

prospective step-daughter [Mary V. duPont] who is said to be "a very lovely girl." Alludes to mutual friends not fully identified.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

MISS [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DU PONT], "Louviers", Del., Mar. 23, 1841.

Each visit to Dover increases his esteem for his future bride. Asks if they cannot be married sooner than they planned. His sister Amelia [duPont] is already busy with wedding preparations. The three Misses Gilpin have offered among the warmest of many congratulations received. Hopes Mr. [Henry M.] Ridgely will enter "Willy" [Williamina Ridgely] at Miss . . . Smith's school, as Ann wishes, so she can supervise her sister and promote friendships between her and the younger duPont girls.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.3cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from C [H A R L E S] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Georgetown, Del., Mar. 25, 1841.

Wishes his sister happiness in her coming marriage. Knows Mr. [Charles I.] duPont only slightly, but he was highly regarded in the Legislature. Likewise has full confidence in Ann's competence to choose a husband. Reminds her to bear "petty vexations" patiently and to adjust herself happily to her husband's tastes and interests. May accept Judge [Caleb S.] Layton's post upon his retirement if the informal offers from ". . . Clayton, . . . Frame and others" should be "properly" tendered, since he could then live on a farm and spare his precarious health the strain of legal practice. Had fifty cases at the present court session.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DU PONT], "Louviers", Del., Mar. 28, 1841.

Writes intimately of his love for Ann, his pride in her, and his amazement at having won her. Discusses plans for both families. Mentions the Rev. Mr. [William H.] Trapnell with distaste, and the Black and Groome families with affection. Comments upon Miss Sarah Black's personality and upon her coming marriage to Mr. [William] Young. Met Captain and Mrs. . . . Blake. Condemns the growing practice of expecting patronage as the reward of political service, of young men seeking public posts suited "for the old & experienced" and sometimes callously displacing such incumbents regardless of need and competence. Alludes to Mr. [Charles] Marim, now seeking a post in the customs house at Wilmington.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

[NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover], from ELIZABETH BANNING, Wilmington, Mar. 28, 1941.

Cannot understand why Nicholas has not answered her letters. Lectures at the Brandywine Lyceum are "something of a treat". Judge [Willard] Hall spoke there last evening on "the improvements made in the arts and sciences since the formation of our republican government." The proposed debating society was not organized.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 24.8cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from S[A R A H] B[LACK], New Castle, Del., Mar. 31, [1841].

Still hopes to have Ann at her wedding on May 6. Is certain her friend's marriage will be very happy. Believes and hopes her own family now begin to like her prospective husband [William Young]. Mentions Augusta Cushing, Ann's expected visit and her own mother [Mrs. James R. Black]. Discusses a pattern.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ANN RIDGELY, Philadelphia, April, 1841.

Feels worn out with shopping. Purchased a "very complete, handsome and convenient" trunk at the "tremendous price" of eleven dollars. Got silk for Aunt [Mrs. Nicholas] R[idgely] at 75¢ per yard, and lancets for [Dr.] Henry [Ridgely]. Comments upon "Mr. . . . Cowgill's appointment." Mentions Mr. [John] Donaldson, his wife [Maria] and Sarah [Black]. Is grateful that father [H. M. Ridgely] supplied enough money for her needs. Everyone is "astonished" at her [approaching marriage] but they are sure she will be happy.

A. L. [S. implied] 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 24.8cm.

NICH[OLAS RIDGELY, Dover], from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, April 3, 1841.

Supposes the Sunday school books have arrived. Explains their selection. Sent Mitchell's *M. E. Church* also. Cannot suggest a candidate for the district school vacancy, but was almost tempted to take it himself. Wishes the rumor of his coming home to farm were true.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21.6cm. x 26.6cm.

MISS [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], Wilmington, April 5, 1841.

Coming home to "Louviers" when it was unoccupied and "desolate" has heightened his appreciation of Ann and his anticipation of their marriage. Is gravely concerned over the possible

effects of Gen. [President William Henry] Harrison's death but is convinced that his brief term was a benefit to the Country since no one else could have defeated [Martin] Van Buren. Besides, only the excitement of the past campaign could have tempted Mr. duPont himself to seek public office, the reward of which proved to be Ann. [Charles] Marim expects a customs house appointment which will take him from "the mosquito county" but will probably earn him much envious opposition.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] C[OUPER], New Castle, Del., April 6, [1841].

Foresees great happiness for Ann in her coming marriage and reassures her concerning her family. Urges her to consider confirmation before her wedding since she has long considered it, and the step at this time might "make many things smoother." A postscript announces the death of an aunt.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.8cm. x 25.4cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, April 9, 1841.

Explains certain difficulties in filling a book order. Alludes to the death of President [William Henry] Harrison.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21.6cm. x 26.7cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from [MISS] E[LIZABETH] BANNING, Wilmington, April 11, 1841.

Was delighted to hear from Nicholas. Is glad he has given up his school though she was not surprised that he enjoyed teaching. Has instructed her own sister Fanny [Banning] since there has been no school in their neighborhood the past winter. Asks "to what religious denomination you think of belonging". Invites him to visit.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.9cm. x 25.7cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, April 15, 1841.

Writes of Sunday school programs and problems. Encourages Nicholas in regard to Millwood Sunday School. Supposes he found it difficult to give up his [district] school in Dover. Advises him against entering at once into the ministry because he will have too little leisure while in service to complete his studies.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 27cm.

MISS [ANN] RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], "Louviers", Del., April 30, 1841.

Tells of his trip from Dover, the great improvement in his inflamed eye, and his purchase of the [wedding] ring, his own and Ann's initials and the date engraved upon it. Looks forward eagerly to their union. Speaks of the affection the Black family have for Ann, of "the Austin Nuptials", and the preparations his sisters have made for the reception of his bride.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20.3cm. x 25.4cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, [Dover], from . . ., [ante May, 1841].

" . . . Soon I no more, at eve's soft hour,
May seek thee in thy happy home;
No more present my votive flower . . ."

An intimate farewell in verse.

A. L. [S. removed] 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from MARY B. [MRS. JAMES] COUPER, New Castle, Del., May 3, 1841.

Discusses a "very genteel and . . . suitable" traveling dress for Ann. Paid the usual fee of \$.50 to the man "who . . . brought [it] down" [from Philadelphia]. Alludes to the approaching marriages of Miss . . . Lofland and Sarah [Black], and to her approval of Ann's.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from MRS. MARY B. COUPER, New Castle, [Del.], May 4, 1841.

Suggests that Nicholas should seek contact with some of the "evangelical Episcopalians" before leaving that Church because of his dislike of attitudes characteristic only of "the High Church party." Offers to give him letters of introduction to such men if he is still interested. Comments on Annie's [Ridgely] marriage. Thinks Sophie [Mrs. S. F. duPont] will be a great help to her in meeting her new responsibilities.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.9cm. x 25cm.

MISS ANN RIDGELY, Dover, from CHARLES [I. DUPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], May 6, 1841.

Though he has known Ann but four months, he is confident "this attachment so soon formed under circumstances so unlooked for and unexpected to both of us must indeed prove a

happy one." Speaks highly of H. M. Ridgely; mentions [Williamina Ridgely], Mrs. . . . Sipple, and his own children. Their wedding will occur "before another week elapses."

A. L. S. 2 pp. 20cm. x 25.4cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, May 8, 1841.

Complains of the negligence of the newly-appointed postal clerks. David Burton is enrolled in his [Sunday] school. Lists Abbott's series of Sunday school texts, with prices. Comments on prospects of the Dover and M[ill] W[ood Sunday] Schools. Hopes to be able to get a donation of books for the latter. Discusses affairs of his own church and Sunday school. Mentions [DanielM.] Bates, Mr. . . . Pennewill, Mr. . . . Muffer and [Rev.] Mr. . . . Kurts.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.3cm. x 26.7cm.

MISS ANNIE RIDGELY, Dover, from SALLIE [SARAH BLACK, New Castle, Del., ante May 11, 1841].

Writes of her own and Ann's approaching weddings. Considers neither unduly hasty. Likes Mr. [Charles I.] duPont and is certain her own "Mr. [William] Young" will make an excellent impression upon Ann on closer acquaintance. Discusses fabrics, and the making of nightgowns and ruffled caps.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.7cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from ELIZABETH [MRS. DANIEL] LOWBER, Philadelphia, May 25, 1841.

Was grieved to learn of Mr. [Thomas S.] Hillyard's death. Sympathizes with his widow. Refers to her own forty-five years of married life. A nineteen-year-old daughter of John C. Lowber recently died. Tells of the girl's charities. Does not like the doctrines of the Methodist Church but agrees that if his ministry is a devoted one the denomination is unimportant. Offers religious reflections.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., c/o C. I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, from DANIEL M. BATES, Dover, June 16, 1841.

Is glad Nicholas is enjoying a visit with his sister [Mrs. Charles I. duPont]. Tells of Sunday school affairs and refers to Mr. . . . Smithers, Mr. . . . Mulford, Mr. . . . Smith, Mr. . . . Kurtz and [Benjamin B.] Comegys.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 20cm. x 24.7cm.

[NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover], from REV. DANIEL LAMBDIN, Greensborough, [Md.], July 1, 1841.

Begs Nicholas to assist [Rev.] William Williams in the duties of the Caroline [County, Maryland] circuit, "destitute . . . by reason of the death of our brother [William] Torbert."

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.5cm. x 24.6cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from BENJ[AMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, July 6, 1841.

Observed both Sunday schools near Dover on his recent short visit to Kent County. Thinks them excellent. Comments on the liberal State subsidy and on the "very fine" library. Tells of a Sunday school excursion in the rain, a few miles above Philadelphia. Hopes Nicholas' group has a better day for their outing.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21.3cm. x 26.5cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Aug. 5, 1841.

Thinks the circumstances under which Nicholas has started preaching may prove favorable, but hopes he can spend the following year at school. Once considered entering the ministry himself. Recommends a chapter in Todd's *Sabbath Sch[ool] Teacher*. Comments on the Dover Sunday schools and on threatened disbandment of his own church. Suggests Jacob M. Hill, Henry Eubank and Mr. . . . Selden as persons who might be interested in providing religious instruction for the children of the Little Creek Landing and Jones' Meeting House neighborhoods, who are now "growing up nearly as ignorant as the Heathen." Hopes Nicholas and Mr. . . . Mulford meet the Misses Milligan during their visit.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19.6cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from C[HARLES] G[EORGE] RIDGELY, Georgetown, Del., Aug. 23, 1841.

Is pleased at Father's [H. M. Ridgely] offer to lend him law books he needs for he cannot really afford his own library yet. Discusses his finances and bookkeeping methods. His practice is encouraging. Hopes for a visit from Nicholas and Daniel [M. Bates]. Refers to Daniel's relative Mr. . . . Moore, and to Dr. [Joseph] Maull. Offers his brother advice and encouragement upon his entrance into the ministry, and states his conception of the duties of that calling. Will be in Dover Saturday.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 20.8cm. x 24.6cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, [Dover], from [MRS. CHARLES I. DUPONT, near Wilmington, ante Aug. 24, 1841].

Reproves Nicholas for failure to answer [Rev.] Mr. [Alfred] Lee's letter, which was written at her instigation. Sends slippers she has worked for him, commenting that he may "give them to [Eu]gene [Ridgely]" if they are "too gay". Thinks it would be a good thing for all concerned if their father should "take Mrs. . . . Almord".

A. L. U. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from A N N, M R S. [CHARLES I.] DUPONT, "Louviers", near Wilmington, [c. Aug. 24, 1841].

Joshua Gilpin died a few hours previous. Is glad Nicholas has written to Mr. [Alfred] Lee. Assures him his religious preference can make no difference between them. Enjoyed their father's visit. Would be perfectly happy in her marriage if her own family were nearer. Discusses plans for entering [Williamina Ridgely] at [Dubre] Knight's school for six months, with an additional long visit to help break her Dover associations and form new tastes. Refers to Amelia and Mary [duPont], Charley Breck, Alicia and Gabriella Shubrich, Ann Vandyke, Mr. [J. A.] Bidderman and their own brother Ned [Ridgely].

A. L. U. 4 pp. 19.5cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Sept. 7, 1841.

Sends books for the Sunday school in Jones' Neck, in which he is much interested. Thinks the circulation of "entertaining, moral and religious books" will be a profitable novelty in the neighborhood, though he fears the school will disband in the winter. Tells of his own doubts and difficulties as a religious teacher. Believes the church he attends is about to unite with a Presbyterian congregation. Considers Abbott's *Way for a Child to be Saved* excellent.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 26cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from [MISS] ELIZABETH BANNING, "Oak Hill", Wilmington, Oct. 3, 1841.

Reiterates her affection for Nicholas but tells him how hurt she was by his insistence upon the return of his letters. Wishes him success in his vocation.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 19.3cm. x 25cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Esq., Dover, from B[ENJAMIN] B. COMEGYS, Philadelphia, Nov. 3, 1841.

Greatly regrets failing to see Nicholas on a recent short visit to Dover. Discusses Sunday school problems and his own spiritual struggles. Mentions Miss . . . Cullin, Miss . . . Guild and Pem [Manlove].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 21cm. x 26.3cm.

NICHOLAS RIDGELY, Dover, from DANIEL M. BATES, Georgetown, Del., Nov. 17, 1841.

Hopes his health will allow him to live an active life. Is enjoying a visit with his Uncle and an opportunity to discuss family history. Hopes the successful temperance movement at Georgetown proves permanent. Is anxious about a planned "protracted meeting". Has been greatly interested in "Hersey's little book on the importance of small things" and its revolutionary implications for a sincere Christian. Asks about his Sunday school class. Teases Nicholas about "a bottle" seen in the bottom of his carriage. Mentions [Charles George Ridgely].

A. L. S. 4 pp. 19cm. x 24.6cm.

MISS VIRGINIA E. JENKINS, c/o H. JENKINS, 150 Market St., Philadelphia, from [DR.] HENRY [RIDGELY], "Louviers", Del., Oct. 9, 1843.

Writes his first letter to his bride-to-be, reminiscing of past meetings, expressing his affection, and looking forward tenderly to their approaching wedding.

A. L. S., 3pp., 20cm. x 25cm. (Photostat of original owned by Mrs. Harry Crawford, Dover, Del.)

[MISS] VIRGINIA E. JENKINS, Camden, Del., from [DR.] HENRY [RIDGELY], "Edenhill", [Del., Oct.] 18, 1843.

"At this hour last night was I seated beside thee . . . thrice happy to be near thee . . ." Is happy and humble in the thought of their marriage, and deeply appreciative of his "Jenny's" sterling qualities of mind and heart.

A. L. S., 3 pp., 20cm. x 25cm. (Photostat of original owned by Mrs. Harry Crawford, Dover, Del.)

MISS WILL[IAMINA] M. RIDGELY, Dover, from [DR.] H[ENRY] R[IDGELY], near Dover, ante Oct. 14, 1845].

Announces the birth of a son [Jonathan Jenkins Ridgely].

A. N. S. 1 p. 19cm. x 14.3cm.

EDWARD RIDGELY, St. Mary's College, Wilmington, from GEO[RGE] P. FISHER, Dover, Nov. 19, 1847.

Is willing to house the law library left Edward by his father [Henry M. Ridgely] if he may use it "for two or three years." Will accept him as a law student, if he wishes to study in Dover, "at half the usual rates of law tuition here which is \$60.00 per annum."

A. L. S. 1 p. 20cm. x 25cm.

[DR. HENRY RIDGELY, near Wilmington], from AVERY DRAPER, [near Dover], Jan. 27, 1849.

Reports on the sale of crops on the Ridgely farm he held as a tenant in 1848. Inquires for Mr. and Mrs. [Charles I.] duPont and Rev. Nicholas Ridgely.

A. L. S. 1 p. 19.8cm. x 24.7cm.

WILLIE [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from MARY [V. duPONT], "Louviers", [Del.], summer, [c. 1858].

Sends *The Life of St. John* and *Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation*. Thinks the latter may interest Mr. Johnson since it is "an argumentative books". Refers to her brother Charlie [C. I. duPont, Jr.] and to her own poor health.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 10cm. x 16cm.

"WILLIE" [MRS. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from MARY V. duPONT, ["Louviers", Del.], June 13, [1859].

Hopes "Willie" is better but indicates no serious concern over her health. Gives news of the family, including accounts of Uncle Francis' [Capt. S. F. duPont] return from the Orient and several visits she herself has made recently. Believes her own recovery will soon be complete. Uncle Francis' curios include, besides lacquer ware and furniture, "a Japan dog & two Japan cats, the latter wonderful mousers, very fierce, with short, bushy tails like gray squirrels; also two Persian cats and some cages of birds." Refers to Edward's [Ridgely] approaching wedding and his bride, who is a general favorite. Has withheld copies of *The Standard Bearer*, promised the Johnson children, until a story hinging upon doctrinal differences, which she thinks improper for the young, is concluded. Lizzie Gillilan will be married shortly.

A. L. S. 7 pp. 16cm. x 20.7cm.

ALEXANDER JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from A[NN] R. [MRS. C. I.] DUPONT, [Wilmington], June 30, 1859.

Offers sympathy to her brother-in-law and his children, and any services it may be in her power or her family's to perform for Willie's bereaved husband and children. A good photograph of Willie can be obtained for \$3.00, or a daguerreotype for even less, with frame \$2.50 extra. Would like to take Annie [Johnson] into her own home when she is two years older, in order to supervise her education. Begs the little girl's father to see that she is kept out of the sun as much as possible, since exposure may make her ill.

A. Df. S. 4 pp. 13cm. x 20cm.

MR. [ALEXANDER] JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from VIRGINIA [MRS. HENRY RIDGELY, "Eden Hill", Del., c. 1860].

Acknowledges a package, discusses dresses made for [Annie Johnson] and plans for her to visit. Will find it hard to go to Willie's home but will do so soon "for you all & the love I bear your dear children." Refers to Harry [Ridgely], Harry [Johnson] and Mrs. Lines.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 12.5cm. x 20cm.

[MR. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del.], from N[ICHOLAS] R. JOHNSON, Boston, Mass., Sept. 27, [18]70.

Describes a pleasant and interesting sea trip from Philadelphia to Boston. Plans to go sightseeing the next day in Boston. Tells of deep sea fishing, a Yellow Fever scare, foul weather "at the Breakwater" and his plans for returning home.

A. L. S. 3 pp. 11cm. x 18.6cm.

MR. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Farmington, Del., from ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, 245 Broadway, New York, N. Y., Jan. 16, 1883.

Asks genealogical data in regard to Williamina Moore (Ridgely) Johnson, her children, and Mr. Johnson himself, for inclusion in an account of John Moore, King's Collector at Philadelphia 1701-1732, an ancestor of Mrs. Johnson.

A. L. S. 2 pp. 21.4cm. x 27.6cm.

MR. ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, [New York, N. Y.], from ALEX[ANDER] JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del., post Jan. 16, 1883].

Gives the details Mr. Campbell had asked, listing dates of birth for himself, his wife Williamina Ridgely, their children Henry R., Elizabeth, James, Nicholas R. and Annie duP. Johnson, and his parents James and Elizabeth (Hayes) Johnson. Also gives facts about baptism, marriage or death of several of the individuals named. Identifies himself as a farmer who has also served as sheriff of Kent County and in both houses of the State Legislature.

A. L. S. 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.

MR. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from . . ., American Academy of Medicine, 135 So. 10th St., Philadelphia, Penna.], Oct. 19, 1884.

A physician called into consultation by Dr. Draper of Wilmington diagnoses Annie Johnson's illness as Pott's Disease, an "inflammatory softening of the spine." Believes the condition can be checked by proper treatment, but emphasizes its seriousness.

A. L. [incomplete] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.



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MR. ALEXANDER JOHNSON, [Farmington, Del.], from . . ., American Academy of Medicine, 135 So. 10th St., Philadelphia, Penna.], Oct. 19, 1884.

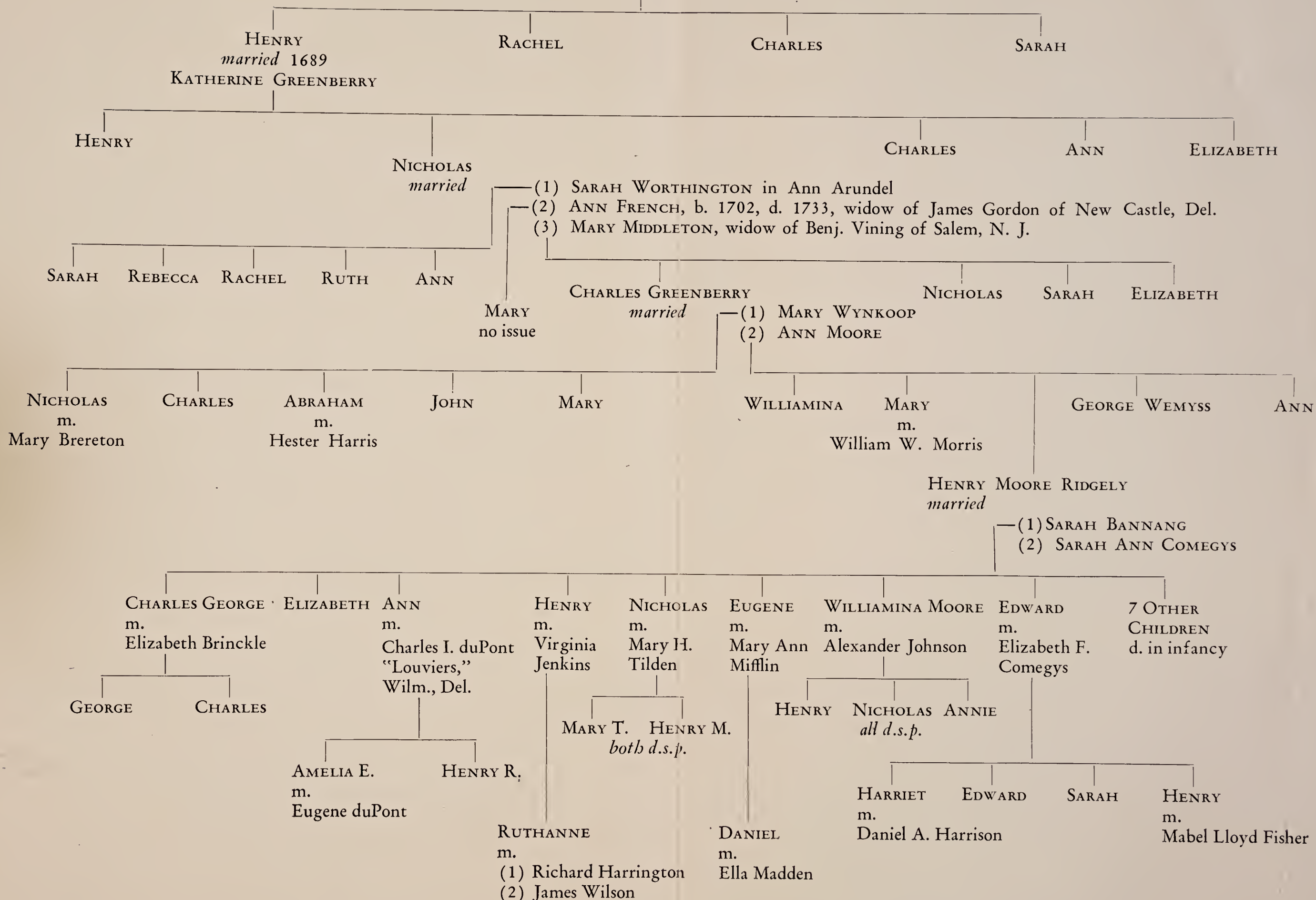
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A. L. [incomplete] 4 pp. 12.5cm. x 20.3cm.

THE RIDGELY FAMILY OF MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

HENRY RIDGELY *married* (1) ELIZABETH HOWARD
 Came from England to Mary- Who came with her husband
 land in 1659, resided at "Cat- from England to Maryland in
 lin" near Annapolis, Maryland 1659

—(2) SARAH ?
 (3) MARY STANTON



Family charts adapted from those compiled by Francis Waring Robinson, 1948, from the manuscript family history, *Records of the Ridgely and Moore Families*, by Mary Tilden Ridgely, 1897-1898, *The Life and Correspondence of the Rev. William Smith, D.D.*, by Horace Wemyss Smith, 2 vols., Philadelphia, 1880, and other information. Reprinted from *The Ridgelys of Delaware & Their Circle What Them Befell*, edited by Mabel Lloyd Ridgely.

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